

While the leaders of the African delegations to the signing of the Southern Rhodesia ceasefire in London yesterday shook hands in a rare moment of friendliness, Lord Soames, the Governor, was ending bans in Salisbury. Zapu and Zanu are no longer proscribed political parties and a general amnesty was granted to those who defied the Crown in 1965 as well as to those who bore arms against the eventual Government.

David Spangler
Diplomatic Correspondent

Leaders of the African delegation, who were in a rare moment of unity after they had signed the Rhodesia ceasefire at Lancaster House yesterday.

The lull was hardly dry on a final report of the 14 week ceasefire before the first shots of the election campaign were fired.

Bishop Muzorewa, the former Rhodesian Prime Minister, gave a warning that if, by some "terrible miracle," his own side "lost" the election, then a Patriotic Front victory would mean that Zimbabwe "would be finished as a free and democratic country and economic development would be arrested."

The ceremony was a short but happy occasion. Lord Rangoon, conference chairman, asked by Mr Joshua Nkomo

and Mr Robert Mugabe, leaders of the Patriotic Front, on his left, and Bishop Muzorewa and Dr Muzorewa, on his right, signed the agreement and the conference final report, four copies in all.

Mrs Margaret Thatcher and Commonwealth and European diplomats watched the televised ceremony. Nkomo had a point of shaking hands with General Walls, the Rhodesian commander, both on arrival and departure.

General Walls, who had somewhat surprised the British side when he asked to be a guerrilla leader by his communist friends yesterday about the dangers of a Patriotic Front victory at the polls, explained afterwards that he now intended to keep silent on political matters.

"I took a view that up to the signing of the ceasefire, I could say what I wanted," he

and Mr Robert Mugabe, leaders of the Patriotic Front, his left, and Bishop Muzorewa and Dr Silas Mumbaurewa, on his right, signed the agreement and then signed the final report, four copies in all.

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to me at a reception after the signing. "As we are all on the same wavelength I shall be the servant of the Governor," Lord Carrington had already assured Mr. Mphahle that the same message was sent to be taken too seriously.

In his final address to the delegates, Lord Carrington said the documents they had signed were the greatest confidence in the people of Rhodesia and neighbouring states.

Promising that the British Government would faithfully discharge its responsibilities, Lord Carrington said he did not have no wish to prolong our role.

"Our task is to give the people of your country the chance to decide for themselves their own future and to establish a new relationship between Rhodesia and the rest of the world."

He gave a warning that it was not enough for both sides to comply with the requirements of the ceasefire agreement which comes into effect at midnight on December 24.

He added that if the wounds could be healed in Rhodesia it would give new heart to the negotiations for a settlement in Namibia and encourage resolution of the issues which divided South Africa from other countries of the continent.

One of the first questions to be decided by the Patriotic Front was whether it would accept the ceasefire.

A representative of Zanu, the wing led by Mr Mugabe, said there would be meetings of its executive committee in high command, and its general staff, in Mozambique next week to review this question, before a

Zapu wing in Dar es Salaam next Saturday. Mr Nkomo has already said that he would like to see them fight as one party.

Moyless 21: 12

Bishop Muzorewa, at a press conference after the signing, expressed full confidence that he won't win the election. "I have the win party, the UANC, would win the election."

"I demand one clear cut statement from the Patriotic Front," he went on, "that there will be no more killings, no more raping, no more sexual abuse, no more burnings, no more murders and that the death lists the PF has been preparing be handed over to the authorities for comparison to the fire which is their true home."

The Bishop flew back to Salisbury last night. The Patriotic Front delegations return to Zambia and Mozambique

By Margaret Stone
M & G, the country's oldest and one of its most respected and successful unit trust groups, is in trouble with the Inland Revenue. It announced yesterday that it has a potential liability for back tax of £7m compared with profits this year of about £2.3m.

Mr Edgar Palamoutianos, chairman of M & G, former chairman of the Unit Trust Association and member of the Council for Securities Information, has resigned his appointment as head of the company, which has had Fenn-Smith as the managing director. Both are to stay on the board.

M & G is the second largest unit trust group within the industry, managing a total of over \$800m and £1,000m of funds. The bulk of the unit holders in the group's authorized unit trusts, or its four offshore funds, or holders of its life assurance policies, are affected by the disclosures. The financial records involve the unit holders of the management company alone.

Shares in M & G were temporarily suspended yesterday as a rescue operation was launched, partly triggered by the group's principal shareholders, Kleinwort Benson, the merchant bankers, which has arranged a standby credit of \$20m return for an interim loan to acquire a controlling interest in M & G.

The group's difficulties have arisen through the activities of its M & G Assurance and Pensions Fund, which is a subsidiary company which is to have been used as a vehicle for tax avoidance. Its fund handling its overseas life assurance business has been reassuring contracts from Non-United Kingdom life assurance companies on the basis of the assumption that the income and capital gains of this fund were exempt from United Kingdom taxation. The Inland Revenue is now challenging that assumption.

The Inland Revenue believes that many of the individual policyholders whose life funds are being managed by M & G in such a "tax efficient" way are in fact United Kingdom residents. In this case the funds in question lose their exempt status and the funds have to pay corporation tax at 37½.

Continued on page 17, col 3

By Paul Routledge
Labour Editor

The national steel strike called for January 2 is going ahead after the collapse of peace talks yesterday. Blatnismen decided at the last moment to join the stoppage called by the industry's largest union, the Iron and Steel Trade Confederation.

The Government has been informed that a new pay offer tabled by the British Steel Corporation union negotiators was unanimously rejected. There is now practically no chance of averting the industry's first all-out official strike.

Mr William Sims, general secretary of the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions said: "It is indeed extremely serious, something pretty horrific in terms of confrontation". The Government could become quickly involved because of the wide ranging impact of the strike on British industry.

At a "pretty stormy" meeting, the corporation increased its anti-strike-board pay offer from 2 to 5 pence, but insisted the men had to pay for the improvement by abolishing the industry's guaranteed working week which costs it £30m a year.

Mr Bob Scoley, chief executive of British Steel, said after the aborted talks: "We were a mile apart. They have no appetite for self funding in the wage settlement". He gave a warning that the dispute was highly dangerous: "You cannot work it out with a sliding rule but we could well emerge with an industry even smaller than the 15 million tonnes a year capacity that we are talking about. It is a grave risk we are taking".

In the short term, a national steel strike will deprive much of British industry of its basic raw material. Most industries do not carry stocks for more than a month, and motor manufacturing, shipbuilding, canning, heavy engineering, and construction would be particularly badly hit.

Mr Hector Smith, general secretary of the National Union of Blastfurnacemen, Ore Miners, Coke Workers and Kindred Trades predicted that the joint strike could last "a very long time. It could go on for weeks. It will certainly go on until BSC

improve their offer." His union's 12,000 members will provide safety cover for BSC's blastfurnaces, but once they are banked down it could take up to a year to get the iron-ore producing end of the industry moving again.

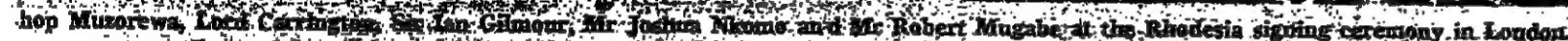
The dispute has all the hallmarks of a ser-pentine confrontation on the scale of the big strike on the steel in 1972-1973. This aspect of the shut-down is causing the TUC some concern. Len Murray, the general secretary, went to BSC headquarters in London to talk with both sides in order to limit the impact of the strike on the jobs of other trade unionists and the economy in general.

Prospects for successful TUC intervention are bleak. The union spokesman says that negotiations are now terminated. "We cannot conjure up fresh money," said Mr Scholey. The BSC board is being called into emergency session to discuss the "owner the better" - after the breakdown of negotiations.

Presenting their new offer yesterday British Steel said: "bearing in mind the grave financial circumstances it is facing, the original offer could not be improved on the basis of an agreement to suspend the guaranteed working . . . week agreement. But the union have jealously guarded their arrangement for a guaranteed bonus."

The confederation has had to offer support from several unidentified unions and is likely to seek the widest backing it can from other groups of workers. The National Union of Railwaymen yesterday sent out instructions to its members that they should not get the docks calling on them to respect steel workers' picket lines and block the transport by rail of raw materials destined for BSC plants.

The confederation's executive is being called to London next week for a progress report and it is expected that the union is making itself available over the Christmas holiday if there is an unexpected peace initiative. But shortage of time suggests that the strike is now unavoidable. The negotiating committee of 50 has been dispersed and there are no plans for its recall.



In Frederick Cleary's story, Dec 21 Lord Soames, the Governor of Southern Rhodesia, today led a number of proclamations to coincide with the leg ceremony at Lancaster House.

He also lifted the ban on prohibited political parties (Zapu and Zanu) and gave a general amnesty both to those who defied the Governor in the past and those who took up arms against the Government subsequently established here.

He also lifted the ban on holding of public political meetings on Sundays and pub-

lic holidays, reduced from seven days to two the number of days' notice required for holding such meetings, and lifted the ban on three newspapers — Moto, Umbelo and the Zimbabwe Times.

His action thus eliminates much of the criticism levelled at him since he arrived in Salisbury just over a week ago.

There had been public demonstrations and petitions on him to allow the funeral wings of the Patriotic Front — Zanu and Zapu — resume activity. These Zapu offices were closed after a demonstration last week.

Lord Soames tonight addressed

see the nation on radio and television and said the Lancaster House signing had at last opened up the prospect of peace. "Let us greet the news with joy. Let us grasp the chance," he said.

The Governor reminded Rhodesians of the solemn commitments made by all parties in London to the agreement. They had undertaken to accept his authority and to give up their arms. They had agreed to renounce force for political ends, and to accept the outcome of the general election.

Lord Soames said most people detained under emergency legis-

lution had now been released and martial law courts were no longer functioning. Later a Government spokesman said, however, that martial law (which covers 90 per cent of the country) would be lifted only when the ceasefire was seen to be effective.

The Governor stated that he would not hesitate to use his powers at his command against anyone who was tempted to disregard the obligations agreed to in London, and planned violence threats or other means to influence the elections.

Discussing details of the ceasefire arrangements, the

spokesman said at a news briefing that the forces of Zambia, Mozambique and Botswana would cooperate with the British and Commonwealth monitoring forces in preventing the Rhodesian and Patriotic Front units from crossing borders. As from the time of the signing today such crossings were forbidden.

Passports valid: Rhodesian passports are to be recognized by the British Government. A Government spokesman said in London that Rhodesian passport holders could go to the United Kingdom "unless so directed without further documentation."

n Robert Flak-
an, Dec 24
ational unrest in Baluchis-
appears to be growing with
other five deaths today in
at fighting in Zahedan be-
an Baluchi tribesmen and
plunary Guards loyal to
ollah Khomeini. The local
an Union Army has been
t that a truce had be-
mo effect, but shooting
ill be heard in the city
suffail.

stabilization of Iran's
le minority areas has been
e most serious problem
the central authorities in
an. Tonight they were
ied with further dissent
n the spiritual leader of the
an Kurds announced that
ad rejected the Govern-
's 'self-management' plan.
local government in Balu-
chistan state radio claimed
that the ceasefire had
been agreed in Zahedan
after meeting between Mr Ibrahim
di, the former foreign minis-
ter, and Shaiikh Mowla-
visi, who is head of the
city, and community in-
tichistan.

he agreement included the
drewal of armed Baluchis
barricades which had been
up in the streets and a
t delegation, including
representatives of the Guards
the Baluchis to supervise
truce.

in Teheran in Kurdistan
hik Ezzedin Hussaini, the
dish spiritual leader, who
e weeks ago submitted a
oint autonomy project to the
Government, was sent a
tial delegation had "un-
ously rejected" a Govern-
t plan for self-government.
e gave no specific details
the rejection although it
indicated that the Govern-
t from Teheran had objected
three of the Kurdish repre-
atives in the ceasefire talks
a member of the left-wing
daymen" and two from
Kurdist-Lezin" to Kotala.

Shaiikh Hussaini did not sug-
gest that the Kurdish truce
would end and held out the pos-
sibility that further talks might
take place. In view of the
trouble in Baluchistan—which
seems to have been caused by
local tribal dissent in the new
Iranian constitution rather than
any demands for regional auton-
omy—it is certainly in the in-
terest of the Revolutionary
Council to keep open negotia-
tions with the Kurds.

In Teheran, the city's religious
leader, Ayatollah Hussein
Montazeri, condemned Arab
countries for not giving suffi-
cient aid to the Kurds. He
said Arab leaders "are said as
morning prayers, were support-
ing" the monopolist policy of
American imperialism.

He also hinted that the Govern-
ment has been impatient with the
disenchantment manifested in
the Arab world towards Ayatol-
lah Khomeini. Ayatollah
Montazeri declared that the
interference today when he said
that "if you threaten the world
with oil even for just one day,
you will make it explode."

He also said that he was not
yet trembling at Iran's revolu-
tion, although Ayatollah Mon-
tazeri apparently believes that
the British Prime Minister
has exhibited "such symptoms
as 'Margaret Thatcher' " he
said, "attached importance to
the Islamic revolution and is
warning the West against it."

Mr Thatcher was following
a Zionist line.

Sanctions moved by the
General Assembly of the United
Nations Security Council to im-
pose economic sanctions on
Iran.

Official said in Washington
that the President hopes to put
extra pressure on Iran's re-
volutionary leaders to release 50
Americans held in the embassy
in Teheran since November 4.

The 15-member Security Coun-
cil is expected to meet today to
request next week probably on
Wednesday or Thursday
after.

Papamamou demonstrations page 2

By Craig Seron

Milder weather is on the way and the chances of a white Christmas are receding, in spite of heavy snow showers in the South-east.

The news brought cheer at least to 500 bookmakers who have taken thousands of pounds in bets on long odds on the chance of 'one snow flake being seen' by the London Weather Centre Tuesday.

They reduced the odds dramatically yesterday when they heard that some drivers in Kent were encountering 'one snow-drifts during the day'.

The London Weather Centre said yesterday's showers were confined to 'an area south and east of the River Great Ouse' and 'a thin drizzle' to the Isle of Wight. Between two and three inches of snow fell in East Kent and the RAC reported that although roads were 'usable' in some conditions were difficult.

Meteorologists said the South-east has been the worst affected area of the country with a fall of about 2°C in London compared with temperatures of 8°C in the north of Scotland.

The forecast for further snow today brought some snow tomorrow and on Monday, by which time milder weather will have arrived.

Bookmakers for the London Weather Centre said: 'We are not really thinking of a white Christmas anymore.'

A feeble breeze of high pressure brought a bright day to the North and Wales yesterday but there was an easterly flow of cold air from the Continent and a few showers of rain.

It might bring the snow showers in the South-east.

Heavy snow fell in Essex and Suffolk.

Because of the snow falls Joe Cozel, the bookmaker, said that the chances of a 'white Christmas' from 12 to one to evens.

Forecast, page 2

Taylor Woodrow Anglian Ltd, builders of the 22-storey Ronan Point tower block, in which four people died in a gas explosion in May, 1968, must pay damages to the London Borough of Newham, the High Court decided. The builders had failed in their duty to design and erect a building in which gas could be safely used, Mr Justice O'Connor said. He ruled, however, that it would not be right to find the company guilty of negligence. Page 2

Deaths in police custody

Only 66 of 245 deaths in police custody in England and Wales between January, 1970, and June 30 this year were the result of natural causes, according to figures issued by the Home Office. In 1978-79, 44 people died in police custody, 10 of them from natural causes, according to inquest verdicts.

The common agricultural policy cost Britain £800m last year, a report by two government economists states, and the cost is likely to rise to at least £1,300m next year. Many earlier estimates have been the work of independent researchers and have been widely contested. Only Italy, the report says, suffers more, and France is shown to have gained by £500m last

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Canadian politicians have denounced the phrasing of a question to be put in a referendum on the future of Quebec next year. The question, devised by the Parti Québécois Government of Mr René Lévesque, camouflages its goal of independence, the critics say. Mr Lévesque said a second referendum would be held if the first was carried as he was not asking for a "blank cheque" Page 5

Georgia remembers Stalin

A gunman, known by the name of Dino, who evaded capture by the police by dressing in women's clothes, was jailed for six years. He was described as a potentially dangerous young man. Andrew Ross, aged 17, who appeared with him, was jailed for four years. Page 3

NHS clash: Secretary of State for Social Services accuses National Health Service laboratory technicians of being irresponsible 2

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*We take this
opportunity to wish
our many friends
the compliments
of the season
and best wishes
for 1980*

ARTHUR BELL & SONS LTD
DISTILLERS PERTH SCOTLAND
Established 1825
And still an INDEPENDENT Company



Only 66 of 245 deaths in police custody were from natural causes, Home Office discloses

By Peter Evans
Home Affairs Correspondent

Only 66 of 245 deaths of people in police custody in England and Wales between January 1970 and June 30, 1979, were the result of natural causes, according to figures given yesterday by the Home Office.

The figures expanded on a parliamentary written reply by Mr. Leon Brittan, Minister of State, which disclosed a big increase in deaths in police custody during the decade.

Mr. Stanley Newsam, Labour MP for Harlow, who asked the question, said yesterday that he did not wish to indulge in condemnation of the police without justification, but the figures raised serious questions. He realized that if a person was violent it could be necessary for police to use a certain amount of force, but it would be wrong to jump to immediate conclusions, but "one is en-

titled to ask whether one of the contributory causes was excessive violence used by the police which was not justified." The 245 deaths and 143 in police stations and 102 in hospitals. A breakdown of inquest verdicts disclosed that 62 were from misadventure, 39 were accidental, 36 were suicide and two were manslaughter, thought not by police. Open verdicts were recorded in 15 cases and there were two cases in which no verdict was given. One inquest was adjourned.

Mr. Newsam said that he would be seeking further information in view of the increase, though he accepted that there had been a rise in violent crime, which might help to account for it.

The last full year for which figures of deaths in police custody are available is 1978, when there were 43 deaths, of which 27 per cent were from natural causes, according to inquest verdicts.

Twenty police forces are included in the table for 1978 from which the figures are extracted, but as might be expected from the size of the Metropolitan Police and the area it covers, its total is highest. According to inquest verdicts only three of 20 deaths in the Metropolitan police district were from natural causes. There was a discrepancy, still unexplained last night, between figures issued by Scotland Yard and those in the parliamentary reply.

The Yard gave the 1977 total of deaths in police custody as five, including one from natural causes, while Mr. Brittan's reply about the year listed eight, three of which were from natural causes.

The reasons given by the Yard for deaths from misadventure include pneumonia, alcoholism, inhalation of vomit and asphyxia.

Asked about deaths in police

cells, the Yard said that a few had been of people who were drunk and put into "a recovery position" - understood to be on the stomach, with the head on one side and the arms at the sides. A doctor would be called if someone was injured. A person who was drunk would be checked at intervals by a police constable or duty officer, the Yard said.

The latest national figures are for the six months ended June 30 last: Two of a total of 16 deaths were recorded as inquests as being from natural causes. But in the whole of 1970 there were seven deaths nationally of people in police custody, three of which were from natural causes.

National figures given by Mr. Brittan include people dead on arrival in hospital and those who died in hospital while technically still in police custody.

Technicians in NHS accused by minister

Mr. Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for Social Services, yesterday accused National Health Service laboratory technicians of scandalously putting patients' safety at risk.

He said the technicians' action in pursuit of better pay for emergency duties was "irresponsible" while negotiations were under way. "Industrial action has taken the form of restricting emergency services, which are being maintained with great difficulty."

"There is inevitably some risk to patients' safety, particularly by professional staff, and it is for the unions to justify it if they can," he said.

The 16,000 laboratory technicians have been sporadically refusing to provide a water meter for out-of-hours duties, which include blood transfusions and pathology. That has slowed the service, putting greater strain on doctors and hospital staff.

Mr. Jenkin told reporters that the men's union, the Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs, was "behaving very badly indeed."

"I find it very distasteful that a union of ASMTs, who find themselves in the forefront of the 'fight the cuts' campaign, should encourage sporadic industrial action across the country to disrupt the services of hospital laboratories, which are a direct detriment to patient care."

The technicians have been taking action for the past two months. They are claiming £10 a night for being on call at home, £10 for standing by in hospital, and £7.50 for being called out. Management has offered £5.56 and £5 respectively. The present payments are £3, £4.20 and £4.55.

Education policy wrong, lecturers say

By Nigel Creaker
The Times Higher Education Supplement

University lecturers yesterday challenged the Government to admit that its education policy would mean fewer places for bright young people, a shortage of qualified manpower and a contraction in adult education.

Professor William Wallace, of Glasgow University, told the Association of University Teachers, meeting in Sheffield, that the present policy was a reversal of the principles espoused by Mrs. Margaret Thatcher when she was Secretary of State for Education.

Speaking for the association executive, he said that the Gov-

Builders of Ronan Point must pay damages to council for explosion

By Christopher Warman
Local Government Correspondent

The builders of the 22-storey Ronan Point tower block, which four people died after a gas explosion in May, 1968, must pay damages to the London Borough of Newham, it was decided in the High Court yesterday.

Taylor Woodrow Anglian Ltd had failed in their duty to design and erect a building in which gas could be used safely, Mr. Justice O'Connor said. He ruled, however, that they would not be liable to find the company guilty of negligence.

In a reserved judgment after a 41-day hearing, the judge ruled that Taylor Woodrow were in breach of contract and that the company should be ordered to recover from the council almost all the cost of

repairing the damage to Ronan Point and the cost of strengthening the block and other flats required to strengthen them after the Ronan Point disaster. The Association of Metropolitan Authorities said that council treasurers and legal departments would be studying the detailed judgment. "This decision has been awaited with interest and the judgment will be of primary importance."

Mr. Justice O'Connor ruled that Taylor Woodrow were guilty of breach of contract because the precast concrete design should have been free of fault and defects, and was not.

Taylor Woodrow, who built the block and eight sister blocks, denied responsibility but did the repairs and made the necessary alterations to the blocks at a cost of £25m, which the council paid.

Many local authorities which had similar tower blocks were required to strengthen them after the Ronan Point disaster. The Association of Metropolitan Authorities said that council treasurers and legal departments would be studying the detailed judgment. "This decision has been awaited with interest and the judgment will be of primary importance."

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Tory MPs demand pride of place for Prayer Book

By Our Political Correspondent

About thirty Conservative MPs have celebrated the Christmas season by tabling a House of Commons motion urging the Church of England "to take care" in the use of new or experimental forms of service and new translations of the Bible "so that there is no further diminution in what should be the central and regular place of honour of the Book of Common Prayer and the Authorized Version of the Bible in the mainstream of its worship."

The MPs are led by Mr. William Waldegrave for (Bristol, West) who was head

of Mr. Edward Heath's political office in 1974-75, and they include Mr. Douglas Rogers, son of Lord Hailsham of St. Marylebone, the Lord Chancellor, and Mr. Edward du Cann, MP for Taunton and chairman of the Conservative backbenchers' 1978 Committee.

Mr. Michael Latham, Conservative MP for Melton, who is a member of the Church of England International Affairs Committee and of the general assembly of the British Council of Churches, yesterday tabled an amendment reminding the MPs that a motion in the Commons can be no more than a propaganda exercise because Parliament decided in 1974 to leave matters of prayer and worship to the church.

Age Concern has appealed to the public to care for elderly couples who are the death of a husband and wife in a suicide pact. It says people do not always realize that old couples can suffer difficulties because they appear to be independent.

They are, however, often in a state of despair, and the request at Hatfield, Hertfordshire, on Antonio Mangarini, aged 79, who became upset when he found that he was to have a third operation in six months.

That meant leaving his blind wife, aged 85, to look after herself in Brockwood Lane, Welwyn Garden City.

Rather than split up the couple decided to gas themselves. They were discovered lying side by side after their solicitor had received a letter from them.

Recording a verdict that the couple had lived while the balance of their minds was disturbed, Dr. John Dines, the coroner, said their deaths were a sad reflection on society.

He said: "The situation was impossible for them to solve so they decided to take this way out, which is sad. I suppose it reflects on society's inability to provide homes and care for people, although I doubt whether there is any individual who can be blamed for this situation."

Police constable English, the coroner's officer, said the couple's intention was obvious from their letters and the way Mr. Mangarini was giving things away to his neighbours and to the milkman.

Young folk find how to be suited for a job

By Our Consumer Affairs Correspondent

Growing unemployment is making young folk smarten up, the Menswear Association of Britain claimed yesterday.

Mr. Kenneth Smith, director of the association, which represents men's wear retailers, said that shops had noted a return to suits among younger men. He claimed: "Our researches seem to indicate that job hunting is the main reason for the boom."

He said that in the past teen-

agers went to important interviews wearing casual or "scruffy" clothing. With more young men chasing fewer jobs, appearances had become more important. On the other hand, he admitted, shops selling casual wear had been more successful over the past year than those selling traditional suits.

Some of his association's members would not be more likely to employ an applicant because he had bought a suit. He said: "The young man

who walks into a Regent Street shop wearing blue denim and an open-neck shirt is not likely to get a job. Equally, someone who applies to Jean Juncheon wearing a Chester Barrie suit is not likely to be looked on all that favourably."

A jobcentre in Camden corner staff said they had noticed a big trend among the young unemployed towards the purchase of expensive suits. The supervisor said: "The longer people are unemployed the scruffier they get."

13 injured in M1 accident

Thirteen people were injured yesterday when six cars and a lorry were in collision on the M1 near Toddington, Bedfordshire.

In one car a mother and her two young children were all seriously injured and detained in hospital. One of the children was in a fleet of ambulances were released after treatment.

Traffic on the northbound carriageway was brought to a standstill and there was still a long tailback three hours after the lunchtime crash.

At Barnby Dun, South York-

shire, a young soldier was killed in an accident only a few minutes after collecting a suit for his wedding, planned for today.

Mr. Malcolm van Hoof, aged 19, of Moorlands, South York, was on a last-minute shopping expedition with his best man when the car he was driving was in collision with a lorry.

On the A339 near Kingsclere, Hampshire, a father died and his family were injured when their car was involved in a head-on smash. He was Mr. Paul Stone, aged 34, of Oakley, near Basingstoke.

Mrs Khashoggi gets ban on 'Daily Mirror'

After the Daily Mirror had given an undertaking in the High Court yesterday not to publish details of the private life of Mrs. Khashoggi, before January 11, the Court of Appeal, on an application by Mrs. Khashoggi's lawyers, substituted an injunction banning the Daily Mirror from publishing such details until 4 pm on January 11.

Mr. Justice Jupp in the High Court had discharged an injunction granted last Sunday, which imposed a publication ban on the Daily Mirror newspapers.

He ordered that Mrs. Ellen Smith, Mrs. Khashoggi's former housekeeper, of Esherbury Street, Brixton, London, should not communicate before January 7, any information about Mrs. Khashoggi's private life.

Former footballer who ran a brothel is fined £700

The Calypso Massage Service of Peter Storey, the former England and Arsenal footballer, offered a full personal service for £20, magistrates at Waltham Forest, London, were told yesterday. In fact, the massage service was a front for sexual intercourse, it was added.

Mr. Storey admitted running a brothel and living wholly or partially on prostitutes' earnings. He was fined £700, with £175.43 costs, and was given a six-month jail sentence, suspended for two years.

Mr. Storey, aged 34, of Seymour Gardens, Eford, London, who now has a minicab firm, was ordered to pay £400 within

seven days and the rest within 28 days.

Sergeant Roy Lott said that he and Constable Colin Latham kept watch on a house in High Road, Stratford, East London, between December 3 and 12. Mr. Storey seemed to be habitually involved with three girls," he added.

Set Lott said the brothel was promoted by advertisements in shop windows. It was described as Calypso Massage and gave a telephone number. During the police observations some 50 males visited the house.

Mr. John Cope, for the defence, said: "He succumbed to the temptation to make easy money."

Work permits will no longer be issued for resident domestics and certain other semiskilled or unskilled workers who come to Britain from the end of this year, Mr. Patrick Mayhew, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Employment, said

Glasgow murder hunt Glasgow police are seeking the murderer of Mr. John Murray, aged 20, of Langholm Street, Glasgow, who was shot by a man who got out of a car and chased him late on Thursday night.

Coking coal subsidy sought by Opposition

By George Clark
Political Correspondent

In anticipation of any further action to prevent the importation of foreign coking coal for steel production through South Wales ports, Mr. James Callaghan, the Opposition Leader, and more than 300 Labour backbenchers yesterday tabled a Commons motion calling on the Government to intervene with subsidies that will enable the British Steel Corporation to rely on British coal.

The motion, sponsored by Mr. Callaghan, Mr. Michael Foot, the Deputy Leader of the Labour Party, Mr. David Owen, Mr. John Silkin, Mr. Eric Varley and Mr. Roy Mason, states: "This House, being gravely disturbed by the social and industrial implications of widespread redundancies and redundancies if the British Steel Corporation goes ahead with contracts to import further amounts of coking coal, calls on the Government to make such financial arrangements with the National Coal Board as to make it unnecessary for the British Steel Corporation to import any further coking coal for 1980-81."

A Labour Party official said that the amount of government subsidy involved would be about £15m because the BSC must make such financial arrangements with the National Coal Board as to make it unnecessary for the British Steel Corporation to import any further coking coal for 1980-81.

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Immigrants right of entry invalidated by marriage

An immigrant who failed to disclose the fact that he had married a British citizen, Mr. Zaman, was held to have lost his right of entry to the United Kingdom, the Court of Appeal ruled yesterday.

Mr. Mohammed Zaman's appeal against deportation was dismissed, but he was given leave to appeal to the House of Lords.

Lord Justice Eveleigh said that in November 1975, Mr. Zaman, then aged 18, of Brook Street, Lye, Stourbridge, West Midlands, was given a visa to enter the United Kingdom. He

coupled entry permission to join his father.

Mr. Zaman, 1976, however, he married in Pakistan and arrived in Britain alone in March, 1976. The judge said: "Invited guests are entitled to the utmost respect. Gatekeepers must never relax and have no rights. When it can be said that a person was neither frank nor honest in the way he obtained leave to enter, then his leave can be invalidated without any given right to a misunderstanding as to his qualifications, for which misrepresentation, some deceit or trickery on his part was responsible."

Chance for parish to vote on licensing curb

From Our Correspondent

A referendum is to be held in the "dry" parish of Banbury, Leicestershire, to decide whether the four thousand electors are to vote on whether they want the area to become officially "wet".

The ultimate decision, however, will rest with the Western Isles Council.

Under the Licensing (Scotland) Act, 1976, there was a three-year phasing out period for areas affected by police imposing "vetoes". Now that the cooling-off period has expired, there is an onus on the local authority, if requested, to find out what the people in the area want the restriction lifted.

Journalists fail to claim for pay parity

By Our Labour Staff

The Central Arbitration Committee has rejected a claim under the Employment Protection Act from journalists at the Press Association (PA) for pay parity with their colleagues on national newspapers.

Members of the National Union of Journalists, who are the PA's national news agency, had contended in support of their claim under Schedule II of the Act that the average salary at the agency was £7,752, compared with a Fleet Street newspaper average of £8,550 to £11,300.

The committee, which judged the NUJ claim "not well founded", concluded that the appropriate comparison for PA journalists was not with national newspapers.

Interim decision on teachers' pay is delayed

By Our Education Correspondent

Britain's teachers will have to wait until January 4 to hear whether the Clegg commission on pay comparability is to direct an interim report on teachers' pay. The first part of the Clegg award was to have been paid on January 1, with the balance in September.

Representatives of the local authorities and teachers' unions went to a meeting with the Clegg commission yesterday expecting to be told if an interim report would be produced. Some representatives had travelled from Scotland.

But Professor Hugh Clegg told them he had no news. The commission would meet again on January 3 to make a final decision on the publication of an interim report, and the employers and teachers would be told on January 4, he said.

Overseas applications for university places drop

By Diana Geddes
Education Correspondent

Applications so far from overseas students for entry to British universities next September are 11 per cent down on the number at this time last year, figures published yesterday by the Universities Central Council on Admissions (UCCA) show.

It is probably still too early to see what effect the huge increase in overseas students' tuition fees will have, however. Total applications by December 1 this year were in fact surprisingly high: 10,483, well down from the 11,756 applications by the same date last year, but only slightly down on the 1977 figure of 10,853.

Just under half of the total number of overseas candidates have usually applied by this time. UCCA believes the fall in applications will be higher than 11 per cent if the pattern of previous years is repeated. But this year's situation will full-cost fees is so different

from previous years that no confident predictions can be made. About two-thirds of the expected total of applications from home students are now in applications from men, up by one per cent, and from women up 5 per cent, producing a total increase of three per cent, which is about the same as the increase in the size of the age group.

There have been substantial increases in applications for aeronautical, electrical and computer engineering, physics, economics, and government and public administration, but a substantial drop in applications for civil and mechanical engineering and accountancy.

More surprisingly, there has been a big increase in demand for theology (up 19 per cent), oriental, Asian and African languages (up 25 per cent), and for art and design (up 12 per cent).

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A levels are level again

By Our Education Correspondent

The proportion of school-leavers gaining one or more A levels in 1978 remained at 16 per cent, the same as in the previous two years. An additional 9 per cent gained five or more higher grade O levels or more at grade one or two, compared with 27 per cent of grammar school leavers, 28 per cent of independent school-leavers and 44 per cent of leavers from former direct-grant schools.

Statistical Bulletin 16/79 (Department of Education and Science, Elizabeth House, York Road, London, SE1 7PB).

5 policemen on assault charge

A police sergeant and four constables, all stationed at Bournemouth, were accused at Bournemouth Magistrates' Court yesterday of assaulting Geoffrey Ronald Caine, causing him bodily harm, on July 31 last. They were also charged with theft. The hearing was adjourned and committal proceedings are to be heard on February 7.

The five are Sergeant James Sanddon and Constables Gary Elcock, Beverley March, Mark Harper and Hugh Wilson.

Saturday Review

On this winter afternoon the bright window of the sweetshop crackled with colour—the red ribbons on a pyramid of chocolate boxes, trays of glazed fruit, marzipan wrapped in crisp green cellophane, and bits of humbugs that shone with an enamelling of sugar. It had been raining since morning, but the day had turned cold and the raindrops had frozen on the shop window, coating it with crystal pebbles that crizzled the light and made it merrier.

Two figures, indistinct in the freezing rain, appeared at the corner of Church Road. Behind them, Saint Mary's on the river was a dark steeple against the yellow light from the Chelsea Flour Mill on the far bank. In the middle of the river a black lighter, with the outlines of a barge, was moored to a bobbing barrel.

Tall and short, the two figures emerged from the crossroads and made their way to the shop. It bulged like an old turret, this last shop in the High Street. *Mutterance & Co.*, said its sign. *All Kinds of Confectionery*. The smaller of the two shadows wore a hooded cape and carried a school satchel. The other was very tall, and in the lamplight his skin was dark silver.

Just as they passed The Raven, a heavy man moved towards the shop and pushed at the door. He was a big man, his shadow a bear on the wall. "Who's that?" The timid voice came from the small hood. It was a girl's voice and it trembled. This was Amy. Her face was very pale and solemn, a tiny triangle with a kittenish concern in the large dark eyes.

"Sydney, from the look of that scruffy coat," said the other. The voice was a lilting sing-song. This was Wallace. He was tall, like a big man, and he was black. "Wonder," he said in his fun-poking voice, "I wonder what that old monster-man wants."

They saw the man gesturing in the shop, and they waited. But it was cold outside; December was wrapped darkly around these small streets. A bell rang over the door of the shop as they went in. The man—it was Sydney—turned. His face was all red lumps and bristles, and he was breathless, having just stopped talking.

"Behind the counter was an old woman. Her name was Mrs Mutterance. She was white-haired and small and entirely round. She wore a warm coat and fuzzy fingerless mittens. She said, 'Angels! It feels like snow!'"

"What do you know about snow?" demanded Sydney. "They don't have snow where you come from."

"I come from London," said Wallace.

"Let's say you're not lying through your teeth, which fancy you are," said Sydney.

"It hasn't snowed in London since just after the war. Not real snow. Not like we used to have. Drifting over the windows and caving in the roofs. Lasted for days. It did and froze the pipes, icicles hanging from the drain spouts."

Snyder put his red uneven face close to Wallace's smooth black face and said, "It killed people it was so cold. They just froze—they didn't know they were dead. They couldn't help themselves."

"Stop that talk," said Mrs Mutterance. "You're trying to scare the boy."

"I ain't scared," said Wallace.

"It snowed last year," said Amy.

"That wasn't snow," said Snyder. "That was coal dust from the glucose factory and a little sleet. Five minutes later it was raining."

"It looked like snow," said Amy.

Snyder squinted at her. Then he said meaningfully, "I've been business with this lady. Get out unless you want a frash-ing."

"Mrs Mutterance said: 'These are my angels. I don't keep secrets from them. Here, have a mint lump and get on with it.'"

"Missus," said Snyder, placing the mint lump on his tongue, "as you know, I own this entire premises. I have my right to do with it as I wish."

Wallace set his gaze upon Snyder.

Amy said: "You're not going to sell the shop!"

"He wouldn't dare," said Mrs Mutterance. "Of course, I know he's a proper City gent, with a piece of rope holding up his trousers, and holes in his shoes for ventilation and moths hovering around in his woolly overcoat. But anyone else wouldn't trust him long enough to get his signature on a contract."

"I think," said Snyder confidently, "that you might be surprised by the extent of my contacts in the world of commerce. As it happens, I have been in consultation with a director of laundry franchises."

"And his hat leaks," said Mrs Mutterance.

Snyder paid no attention to the remark. He said: "I believe there is a future in washer-dryer operations. I have plans for this sweet-shop."

"It's my sweet-shop," said Mrs Mutterance.

"Your sweet-shop," said Snyder. "It's going to be a laundry-ette."

Mrs Mutterance swallowed her mint and said fiercely, "Soap flakes!"

"This is terrible," whispered Wallace.

But Snyder was still speaking. This was a new Snyder, not the glowering, stamping bear they had known in the past, shouting for the rent money on the first day of the month; nor the Snyder who hardly spoke except to say "Mind my lupins" in the dusty back garden, or "You're going to come to a sickly end" to Wallace, for no reason the poor boy could name.

He lived on the top floor. He was a man of many moods, but happiness was not one of them. And yet this evening, serving an eviction notice on Mrs Mutterance and her adopted children, he seemed grumpy, cheerful and full of strange ideas.

"A modern laundry-ette," he was saying. "Washing machines with windows on them, like twenty-four tellies with suds foaming on the screen. They're fun to watch! You can see the bubbles! And over here—"

He walked to the side of the shop. There were jugs of mint imperials and fairy drops on the shelves.

"—some wringers and dryers, all humming busily away." He wheeled a jar of nut clusters. "I'll put my soap dispenser here—insert a coin and you get a whole cup of detergent. Maybe I'll knock that wall through to make room for me dry-cleaning machines. They look like tin wardrobes but they bring in the money like billy-o."

"I'll be all machines," purred Amy sadly.

"I'm not working in no laundry-ette," said Wallace.

"No one's asking you to," said Snyder promptly.

"Well, neither am I," said Mrs Mutterance, who had become quite serious. "Forty years I've been managing this sweet-shop, ever since I was tall enough to see over the counter."

"The beauty of a laundry-ette," said Snyder, "is that it's silent. Such a sound as a washer-dryer makes, people put money in a machine and then puts in their clothes. They take out their clothes, but they leave their money. That is done by the gun-not missus. I takes out their money."

"Merdie," said Mrs Mutterance.

"The work is done by the customer," said Snyder. "I provides the facilities."

"Forty years," said Mrs Mutterance.

"I was in the army then," said Snyder. "I don't know about that. I had the war to occupy me. I was being fired at in anger."

"The buzz-bombs fell on Battersea," said Mrs Mutterance.

The children watched in alarm.

"I was in the war," said Mrs Mutterance.

"If that is so," said Snyder, "why is it that I collect an army pension and you don't?"

This was a fact. Every Thursday, Snyder went over to Chelsea to collect his money. Snyder walked the mile from the corner of Church Road, across Battersea Bridge to the pension office. "Keeps me fit," he said. But he was too mean to pay for the bus.

"Just think," said Snyder, "the whole shop was a white line and shell machine. And out front the coat of arms—"

"By Appointment to Her Majesty the Queen, Launderers and Dry Cleaners," said Mrs Mutterance.

"Cods-wallop," said Mrs Mutterance.

"Her Majesty's got clothes," said Snyder. "And the royal clothes need washing as much as ours do."

"Yours especially," said Wallace.

"You," said Snyder, "are going to be a sticky end. He jammed a cloth cap onto his head, but before he stepped out into the freezing rain he said, 'Now I will be on my way. Remember—Christmas is coming. Ren's due early. I'll expect it Saturday. Take my advice; he went on, "and use the holiday period to find yourselves some new gear."

"I hope he falls in the river," said Wallace, twisting his hands in anger.

Mrs Mutterance was too stunned to reply. They went upstairs, and she watched Wallace and Amy leave their tea—and she listened for the bell, which meant that a customer had entered the shop. But there were no customers in this icy gale. At six, Mrs Mutterance went down and locked the shop door.

Wallace and Amy heard Snyder pacing in his room upstairs. That odd choking and whistling noise was Snyder singing—he was happy.

"He's evil," said Wallace.

"I don't think he's evil," said Amy. "I think he's a bad man."

"That's the same thing," said Wallace.

"No, it's not," said the small girl. "Evil people never change, but bad ones sometimes do."

"Do you think that old monster will change?"

Amy said nothing. She had started to cry.

When Mrs Mutterance came upstairs to have her own tea, Amy asked in a pleading voice, "Where will we go?"

Mrs Mutterance blinked and



London Snow, A Christmas Story

by Paul Theroux

said sadly. "Goolistan. Or Nether Wallop. Or the Rinks of Merriwale. Oh, ain't the old cruel!"

II

Towards midnight, in his hammock in the hall, Wallace was woken by silence. Such a sound as a washer-dryer makes, people put money in a machine and then puts in their clothes. They take out their clothes, but they leave their money. That is done by the gun-not missus. I takes out their money."

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Amy said, "I can see laundry everywhere!"

It was snow.

It clung thickly to the rooftops where it was nearly blue. It was mounded like white eyebrows above the windows of the houses, and it had blown against the brick walls and stuck, making beards hang from the eaves. It was piled against the doors and windows, each spike on the churchyard fence was encased in a fluffy sheath, and so far the only marks in the white street—what a beautiful street it seemed!—were the milkman's footprints.

Saint Mary's seemed a country church, banked by snow, at the edge of a snowy meadow where lambs nestled. But the meadow was the frozen river on which the snow had settled, and some icy wavelets had produced the illusion of lambs.

The wreckage on the patch of waste ground near Westover Road was gone, and in its place were bulging gloom and whitened statuary. The window panes were feathered from the flakes that had stuck to them, and from every eave and drip pipe hung icicle daggers and the loveliest swords of ice.

"Why is it so quiet, Ma?" asked Amy.

"The snow's stopped the yip-yap," said Mrs Mutterance. "It's a kind of cloagulation—it just came down and snuffed everything. Gosh, ain't it pretty?"

"But where's the river, Ma?"

Mrs Mutterance "My guess is that it's underneath."

There was no traffic on the river. There were no reflections, only an even whiteness which matched the silence. The wet black city was gone.

"There's a house on top, where the river should be," said Wallace.

The lighter, transformed to a shed. It did not bob, and the snow had drifted round it. Its bow was covered, its portholes at the level of the snow, and the drum on which it was moored was hidden.

Amy said, "It's magic."

"No," said Mrs Mutterance. "It's as normal as it could be. Normal and thermal. You know, this is what London was like when I was a girl, and we had silver slippers in the Christmas pud. Goodness, it takes me back! I had my own tea-tray, for sliding. My father gave me glacier mitts and called me Trood."

"I wish Snyder would go out," said Wallace. "And freeze to death."

"That's a bastable and harrowing thing to say!"

"I'd like to steal his mittens and take the paper out of his shoes," said Wallace. Mr Snyder lined his shoes with the Daily Mail in the winter to plug the holes. "And put more leaks in his hat. Then they'd find him flat on his back, as stiff as a fish finger."

Even if he is going to kick us into the street, you shouldn't say that. You should feel sorry for his stupidity. The man's a moggy—he doesn't know any better."

Over breakfast, Mrs Mutterance switched on the radio. London had had its worst snowfall for fifty years, said the announcer. The trains had been cancelled, the airport was closed, the buses could not run. The chimneys of Big Ben were silenced by the frost which had stilled the hammers. For the first time in recent memory the Thames had frozen over.

"We knew that, didn't we?" said Mrs Mutterance. She stood up. "Time to open the shop."

"But there won't be any customers," said Wallace.

"Duty," said Mrs Mutterance.

Mrs Mutterance stayed in the shop, wearing her coat and hat and fingerless mittens. Wallace and Amy took their tea-trays and Battersea Bridge Road—and they walked in the middle of the road. Snow-ploughs had begun to clear some roads, but it was so cold the snow remained in great piles, where it had been shifted, making canyons along the kerbs. There were no cars, and most of the shops were closed. The only people Wallace and Amy saw were children, who had squares of linooleum or strips of cardboard or, like Wallace and Amy, tea-trays.

It was dark at three-thirty, and it was midnight. When Wallace and Amy got back to the shop, Mrs Mutterance greeted them and said that not a single soul had been in all day.

III

That night there was a new fall of snow. The city was whitened further, but it was less cold than it had been. The snow, more like insulation, was bluer and stickier. Large wet flakes were still falling at dawn. Although the city remained quiet, Big Ben's chimneys had begun to ring again. The London snow had killed the city. London was a snowy roof and smoking chimneys muffled voices and pale bony light.

"I'm handing over the rent money today," said Mrs Mutterance. "To Bean-wit. That was one of the names she had given Snyder."

"Buckey," said Mrs Mutterance. "I lived just above them and could hear every word they said, so she used these secret names in order that the old man would not know she was whispering against him."

"Make him wait for it," said Wallace.

"I've always paid on time," said Mrs Mutterance. "I'll give it to him this afternoon, when he gets back from his pension."

But let's start the day right and not talk about Bean-wit.

"What will we do?" said Amy, in the same mournful voice.

"Play in the snow," said Mrs Mutterance. "You might never see snow again in this city. You'll have something to tell your grandchildren. Play, my angels, and forget about this business with the old man. He raised his eyes to the ceiling—"

"Lord Hollop."

They went out. They found slippery hills and four-foot drifts. They saw that the pillar boxes lay half buried. The snow was wet and soon they were wet. A time had begun when they knew it when they saw how, where the winter sun had struck the river, the ice had darkened. There were cracks in it, like the veins in marble, and black holes near where the lighter was moored in mid-stream.

Mrs Mutterance was waiting for them when they returned to the shop. On her face was an expression of puzzlement, hope and fear which she voiced in the word, "Wonder-kright."

Wallace said, "Hi, Ma."

Mrs Mutterance said, "He's gone."

Wallace said, "Beautiful!"

"Don't shout, boy. I went up there and knocked. I've been knocking all afternoon. He didn't come back."

Wallace said, "Maybe he froze!"

"Wally!" said Mrs Mutterance. "That's an evil thought. He's an evil man."

Mrs Mutterance wheezed, "He ain't half heart!" and then coughed.

"But he's bad, Ma," said Amy.

"Let's eat and forget about him," said Wallace.

"Let's look at his room for clues," said Mrs Mutterance. "If we don't find any, we'll eat."

They went to Snyder's room, climbing in single file up the narrow staircase. The door was not locked. The floor was littered with paper and rags. The oil lamp was tipped over. And the bed was a horrible sight, piled high with horse blankets and old newspapers.

For several anxious seconds they thought that Snyder, dead or alive, might be lying beneath this mess on the bed. It was humpy enough to contain a man. But Wallace kicked the bed and said, "Anyone there?" There was no reply. He prodded it with a broom handle, but the broom handle sank into the pile. Wallace said, "He's not underneath."

"Look," said Amy. She pointed to a rag on the floor. It was covered with blood.

"Muddy blutter!" Mrs Mutterance said. "Phone the police! Don't touch anything. They'll want to check for footprints. Drop that broom handle. Wally—drop it. Think you're accomplished!"

Mrs Mutterance pushed down the shop and dashed

the emergency number. Moments later she was saying, "I want to report a missing person—a murder. My name's—"

When the policeman arrived, Mrs Mutterance said, "Now that constable looks as though he means business. Look at that mackintosh. Look at that belt. A push-bike as well. The policeman had a black beard and his face was red. There was snow in his beard; he had pedalled some distance."

"It's upstairs," said Mrs Mutterance. She pushed ahead of him and switched on Snyder's little lamp, apologising as she did so for leaving fingerprints on it. "But I'm sure there are footprints and fingerprints all over the place. Even see such a mess in all your cases? This is the scene of the crime—no doubt about that."

The policeman said, "Where's the body?"

"There's no body," said Mrs Mutterance. "Don't bother to look for a body, then. We looked already and didn't find one. Wally even changed the bed. If you find some fingerprints on that broom handle I expect they'll be Wally's. But he's innocent of any crime or wrongdoing. He was in the snow at the time."

Interrupting her, the policeman said, "If there's no body, how do you know there's been a murder?"

"Reasons," wheezed Mrs Mutterance.

The policeman smiled. "Show the constable what we found, Wally."

Wallace picked his way across the littered room and solemnly pointed with his long black finger to the grey rag.

Now the policeman became interested. He crouched and stroked his beard and looked closely at it. The rag held it near the lamp.

"I expect you'll want to send it to the laboratory," Mrs Mutterance turned to Wallace and Amy. "For tests, see. They'll have to run tests on this whole room. The mess is so bad, I wouldn't want their job."

But the policeman had dropped the sticky rag.

"What about the blood then?" said Wallace.

"Ketchup," said the policeman, sourly.

"The sticky rag must have been eating his fish and chips in here!" said Mrs Mutterance. "Thank goodness it's not blood. I was beginning to feel a bit queer."

"I'll be off," said the policeman, and started for the door.

"Just a minute, constable," said Mrs Mutterance. "I want to report a disappearance."

"Yes?" The policeman took out a pencil and pad.

"The occupant of this room has vanished," said Mrs Mutterance.

"When did you see him last?"

"I heard him banging out yesterday."

"Do you know where he was going?" asked the policeman, making a note on his pad.

"Oh, no. To collect his pension in Chelsea."

"He'll be back," said Wallace. "I just know it."

"You sound as if you'll be sorry to see him," said the policeman.

"We will," said Wallace.

"Don't pay any attention to him. A plane was overhead the first plane for days. They heard it travel down York Road towards Wandsworth Bridge and the power station. And the trains had started chugging and chugging at Clapham Junction."

"The river's unfreezing. The snow will be gone soon," said Mrs Mutterance.

"At least, we looked for Bean-wit, and at every dark alleyway Wallace said in a low voice, 'Are you in there, you old monster-man?' They bought a Christmas candle and looked at toys in the shop windows. After the shops closed, they went home."

"Not a sign of him," said Wallace to Mrs Mutterance, when they returned to their home over the sweet-shop.

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continued from page 6

They went out. The morning was dark. Fog had gathered in the small square, and the yellow street lamps still burned, giving their muted light to the wet snow and the white-gloved fog. Mrs Muttance headed for Battersea Bridge, once again. Amy walked towards St Mary's Church, and Wallace lingered at the shop, watching the mist settling into the street.

The London snow had come a few days too soon. It had been an interval of enchantment, and it seemed now as if it had never really existed; as if, in this wintry city, they had only imagined the two soft days of snow. By noon-time, it had all but gone. The wet streets were blackened, the roofs still dripped, and the fog enclosing the small square by the shop was about to melt. It had become what it had always been in winter, a dark city of muffled noises.

Wallace was waiting in the doorway of the shop when Mrs Muttance returned. "Any sign of him?" she asked.

"Only this," said Wallace. In his hand he held five white teeth fixed to a pink segment of plastic. Snyder's lower denture. "I found them upstairs. I decided to have another look at the victim's room."

"He's not a victim yet," said Mrs Muttance. "If I find out a thing or two, the Chelsea people say he collected his pension. That means he got over there. When they said he was missing, they said I should ring the mortuary, but the mortuary don't have anyone who fits his description," Mrs Muttance looked again at the teeth. "If I left his teeth behind, he must have been in a big hurry, those teeth prove it. I know that from experience."

"The snow's gone," said Wallace. He did not tell Mrs Muttance what he saw in his mind: the dead figure of Snyder, from which all the hideous snow had melted, a grey smudge on a corpse in a side street. Wallace went on. "He crossed over to Chelsea. We'll don't have any idea where he is now. He must have vanished—and if he has, we're dead."

"If we don't find him, we're st," said Mrs Muttance. Can you imagine what sort of Christmas we'll have if we don't say to ourselves that we've got a good honest look? "I had a good honest look," said Wallace, and all I found as these choppers."

Upstairs, they found Amy idled at the electric fire. Mrs Muttance took off her coat and put on a dry one. He told Amy how Snyder had been in the post office, and all she showed the teeth, he'd seen in Snyder's room.

"They're horrid," said Amy. "Have the feeling they're going to bite me. Please put them away, Wally."

"There's no snow left," said

Mrs Muttance. "We don't have a hope of finding him now. We could have tracked him before—but how can we do that now?" She began to sniff.

"Don't cry, Ma," said Amy. "He's lost. And we're lost. He'll come back and have us."

"I cracked him," said Mrs Muttance. "I cracked him. He's gone. She pointed to St Mary's. "All the way to the churchyard. There were footprints in the snow."

"But don't you see? It's too late—the footprints are all melted! They've washed into the gutter. Anyway, are you sure they were his footprints?"

"No," said Amy. "I wasn't sure."

"We are lost!"

"But why I saved them," said Amy.

"Saved what?" said Mrs Muttance.

"The footprints," said Amy. "But the snow's gone! It's melted. The footprints aren't gone. I cut them out. I shovelled them up. She went to the refrigerator and opened the freezer compartment. They're in there."

There were neat flat parcels, wrapped in foil, in the freezer compartment, like slabs of frozen fish. Amy took them out, and showed one to Mrs Muttance. It had a number on it. "I found this one on Church Road," she placed it on the table and opened it.

"Yes, this was a good one. I shovelled it up and froze it, then I wrapped it so that it wouldn't get mixed in with the others."

Mrs Muttance was peering over Amy's shoulder. "It's a biscuit. Look, it has a biscuit in the middle of it. That's a biscuit. He has holes in his shoes like this!"

"And this one I found in the churchyard," said Amy. She unwrapped the second footprint.

"But he couldn't have been in the churchyard," said Mrs Muttance. "That's not how you get to Chelsea."

"This one," said Amy, unwrapping another, "I found near the fence."

"That's his too—the hole says it all. But what was he doing there?"

"I don't know," said Amy. "That's why I brought them back and kept them frozen."

"You used your noddie," said Mrs Muttance proudly. "Now let's go—I want you to show me exactly where you found these."

A strong wind was blowing across the river, sending from the warehouses and factories on the Chelsea side and stirring the water into brief black fumes. The lighter swung on its barrel mooring as the swift flood broke against its bow. The river seemed to be in a hurry, as if it were in a hurry to get to the sea. The churchyard ended, at the embankment fence.

Amy showed the others where she had found the first footprint. She led the way, Mrs Muttance questioned her,

and Wallace struggled with the sack of frozen footprints. The first one she placed on the pavement beside Church Road.

"Which way was it pointing?" asked Mrs Muttance.

"To the churchyard," said Amy.

The footprint, the little slab of snow, became sudden with water and began to fall apart before their eyes.

"Where's the next one to go?" asked Wallace.

"Here," said Amy. She had marked the spot with a twig. She put the second footprint down in the gravel of the church driveway.

"He must have been going to church. Maybe he's inside. Mrs Muttance was excited. "He might have taken shelter there from the snow."

Amy was setting down another footprint.

"Are you sure you found one here?" Mrs Muttance had become perturbed. She said, "Oh, bother," and looked this way and that into the wind, at the warehouses, the church, the embankment.

"Right here," said Amy, pointing to the snowy footprint unfrozen and, receiving the feet of rain, turned grey.

"Where was that man going?" said Mrs Muttance.

"I've got one footprint left," said Wallace.

Amy walked several paces. "That goes over here," she said, and pointed her dainty toe at the twig marker.

"He came to the church," said Mrs Muttance. "He must have been lonely. He was walking around in circles, poor old Snyder. His feet were pointing in that direction, into the river."

Mrs Muttance was dripping with rain. It ran off her hat and down her sleeves and fell from her fingers. She said, "I could do with another footprint."

Wallace said, "This is the wrong way to Chelsea."

"But he got to Chelsea," said Mrs Muttance. "He collected his pension money. The funny thing is, he didn't make it back."

Amy said, "Maybe he took a short cut. Ma."

"He didn't go that way," said Mrs Muttance.

She was facing the choppy river. The water slurred and splashed against the river wall. The river seemed as wide as a lake, and nothing this winter evening moved on its boats, no tops, no rowers. Only chairs, and that lighter halfway to the Chelsea shore.

Wallace and Amy also faced the river, but they said nothing.

Mrs Muttance said, "It doesn't seem possible that just two days ago this whole river was solid ice. Suddenly, the snow melted and Snyder's jacket. That's it! That's what he did—he walked across the river! He collected his pension. He was in such a hurry to get there, he left his teeth behind."

"And he was in a hurry to get back," said Amy.

"To get the rent," said Wallace. "So he could kick us out and start his laundry-ette. But he didn't make it."

"No," said Mrs Muttance. "Because by late afternoon the river wasn't frozen any more. I saw it at six o'clock. It was just icebergs and slosh."

"We saw it," said Amy. "It was half frozen."

"Maybe he fell in," said Mrs Muttance, staring at the turbulent water.

"I'm no dummy," said Wallace. "If it was half frozen, then he only got halfway. He dropped his voice to a whisper. "Maybe that's how he drowned."

"Unless he got to safety," said Mrs Muttance.

"This bank is safety," said Wallace. "And there weren't any footprints leading home."

"What about that lighter?" said Mrs Muttance, pointing to the dark vessel moored to the barrel in midstream.

"That's just halfway across," Amy said. "He might be inside."

"I can't see a thing," said Wallace. "The cabin's dark and it's going up and down. Who wants to swim out and see?"

"You don't have to swim," said Mrs Muttance. "There's a dinghy in the churchyard and some oars."

Amy said, "I bet this is the only churchyard in the world that has a dinghy in it."

The dinghy rested against a tree. Wallace tipped it to the ground and dragged it through the churchyard, zigzagging among the gravestones. He hauled it to the river in the iron fence, then swung the gate open and launched it.

He said, "I don't want to go out to that spooky boat alone."

"We'll all go," said Mrs Muttance.

They got into the dinghy, Amy in the bow, Mrs Muttance in the stern, and Wallace sat between them rowing. Wallace bravely brought the dinghy around and almost level with the lighter. It was still fifty yards away, but now they could see the name painted on its stern. Moe. It said in white paint on the tar-splashed wood.

"I can't see anything yet," said Amy, whose face was set against the knife wind.

"I don't want to see anything," said Wallace.

"Keep rowing, boy!" cried Mrs Muttance.

They looked back at the Battersea shore, through the mist and the faint tracings of the wharves and the church, and saw the feeble light, the windows of their own shop. But the rule made it remote, like the friendly buildings in a sea-port, becoming dimmer and sadder as the harbour yielded to the open ocean.

Above them were gulls, making for Chelsea.

"They're worried," said Mrs Muttance. "The storm's getting harrowing."

"I'm cold," said Amy.

"Temperature's dropped," said Mrs Muttance.

Silvers of ice cascaded upon them and glazed the boards of the dinghy. There were thin shells of ice in the river which crumbled like biscuits as Wallace raked the water with his oars.

"We're almost there," said Mrs Muttance. "Three more strokes, Wally!"

At the third stroke, Wallace swung the dinghy around and grabbed a rope that was dangling from the lighter's deck.

"Let's get aboard," said Mrs Muttance.

There were coils of rope on the lighter's deck, and oil drums, and bits of broken machinery. All these were cooped in ice. The river beat against the hull made a solemn boom below deck. The wind-driven rattle pattered like sand-grains on the lighter.

"He's not here," said Wallace.

"He might be inside the cabin," said Mrs Muttance. "If he is, I don't want to see him," said Wallace.

"Go and look," said Mrs Muttance, rocking back and forth unsteadily.

Reluctantly, Wallace crept across the slippery deck and along the thwart of the lighter to the cabin door. He looked in and gave a low whistle.

"What is it, Wally?"

"There's someone in there," he said to Mrs Muttance, "but I sure don't look like Snyder."

"Ask him his name," said Mrs Muttance.

"Don't matter if this man got a name," said Wallace, putting his big black face above the cabin roof to stare at the white eyes of Mrs Muttance. "This man looks dead."

"I want to go home," said Amy.

"What was that?" said Mrs Muttance.

She had heard a groan, like a bluster of air from a punctured balloon.

"If we don't get out of here quick and call the police, we're going to be in deep trouble," said Wallace.

The groan came again.

"Help me forward, Wally," said Mrs Muttance, inching towards the cabin on the ice-coated deck. Reaching the cabin door, she stuck her head inside. A large figure was stretched out on the floor, its face turned to the cabin wall. At first glance it looked like a long greasy sack, but Mrs Muttance saw a sleeve and a squashed hat and a shoe. The shoe had a hole in it.

"It's him," said Mrs Muttance, breathing hard. "Another groan from the figure: it was weaker now, like air rattling in a narrow pipe."

The figure rolled over slowly. It was Snyder, his face a strange colour from the pale light that leaked through the porthole.

"Don't hurt me," he said, in a piteous voice. It was a small voice, smaller than Amy's and

full of fear. Snyder's hands were dirty. He clutched his coat with them and said, "I've just had a terrible dream. I was trapped. I was crossing the ice. It started to crack. I just made it to this lighter."

"Oh, sherry," said Mrs Muttance. She opened her handbag and took out an envelope. "I thought you might want this."

"I'm so hungry," said Snyder. He sat up. "What's that?"

"Your rent money," said Mrs Muttance.

"Keep it," he said. He stood up and tottered to the cabin door. "I thought I was going to die here. I shivered, but no one heard. Then I was too weak."

"Look at you—you're all dirty."

"It's this filthy boat," said Snyder, whimpering.

"But you'll be all right," said Mrs Muttance. "You can chuck those clothes into your new laundry-ette and get them nice and clean."

"No," said Snyder. "There's not going to be a laundry-ette, or a washy-ette, or anything. The shop's yours," he murmured. "You saved me!"

"If we don't head for shore right now," said Wallace, "we're going to have to spend Christmas here."

"I lost all track of time," said Snyder. "I thought I'd missed Christmas."

"You didn't miss it," said Mrs Muttance, leading Snyder to the dinghy. "In fact, you can spend Christmas with us. There won't be much turkey, just bread and scraps, and plenty of sweets."

"That reminds me," said Snyder. "My teeth—I forgot my teeth."

"Here," said Wallace, and took Snyder's teeth out of his pocket.

"What a thoughtful boy," said Snyder, clapping the teeth into his mouth.

Amy said, "You're not like Mister Snyder at all."

"I'm alive," said Snyder happily. "It's wonderful to be alive."

In the dinghy, Mrs Muttance said, "Merry Christmas."

"And to you, madam," said Snyder, and kissed her.

"Look!" said Amy. Wallace paused in his rowing and, as the dinghy turned in the current, they looked up. The lights from Battersea were close but clouded, and the steeples of Saint Mary's were nowhere to be seen. The river was gender. The wind had dropped.

"I'm saved," said Snyder. Mrs Muttance said, "We're all saved."

It had begun again to snow.

© Paul Theroux

Gardening Great tastes

About 12 years ago, on holiday at our beloved St Gildas de Rhuy in South Brittany, I developed a wicked cold and lost my sense of taste and smell. The doctors said it would come back if I gave up smoking which I did, but it did not. But curiously I can smell and taste onions which I greatly enjoy and this is one more strange attribute of the genus *Allium*. When you think about it, there are not many genera which contain species that are highly ornamental and they are grown only for their floral effect.

The genus *Cucurbita* contains the pumpkin and the squashes which, while not among my favourite vegetables are greatly appreciated by many folk. (I have never been over-enthusiased by the Americans' pumpkin pie.) But the genus has in variety of *Cucurbita pepo* a splendid range of ornamental gourds which can be trained up a fence or allowed to trail on the ground.

Perhaps the most versatile genus is *Solanum* which has the potato, tomato, and the egg plant or aubergine. It has also provided us with *Solanum capsicastrum* or winter cherry which appears in thousands in florists' shops at the time of year when it is in its orange fruits. Sometimes I have kept a plant successfully through for another winter by trimming back the shoots in March, moving the plant into a larger pot and plunging it outdoors until October. But frankly I have not always made a good job of it and I think it is better to grow new plants from seed sown each year in February or March.

But in *Solanum* we must always remember the glorious blue climbers *S. crispum* and *S. jasminoides*, splendid plants for a south facing wall, with their lovely blue flowers.

But to return to the onion family, it contains not only the edible species—onions, shallots, chives, garlic and leeks, a large and valuable section of our culinary assets, but also a number of highly attractive ornamental species.

Although it is rather late now to hope to buy the decorative alliums. I will just put on record that the low growing yellow *Allium moly*, flowering in June and July. A *diplomat* with pink flowers in May and June and which may be cut and dried for winter use, are lovely garden plants and that there are several more to look for in the bulb catalogues another year.

Taking the edible alliums my own feelings after 40 years of growing them are that if you are going to grow onions grow them as big as you can—take no notice of people who say that large onions have no flavour.

My own preference is still for growing onions from sets—small onions that we plant, just covering them with soil in March if the ground is workable. Enrich the plot with manure and about 4oz of a general fertilizer to the square yard and give one or two fertilizers during the growing period.

I prefer to grow onions from sets because they are less trouble—you do not have to raise seedlings and plant them out, or sow seed and have to thin out the seedlings; also I find onion sets less prone to pests and diseases than those raised from seed.

I must, of course, say before somebody writes in to point out that you sow onions you can use the thinning as spring onions. So you can, of course, if you wish to grow onions for pickling.

Personally I hope never to be asked to grow pickling onions again. When my daughters were at boarding school they adored pickled onions which they smuggled in for their midnight feasts. I gave them all right and they boiled them in vinegar and the house stank of it for days.

Of all the alliums I put garlic very high on the list. Used with a light hand it greatly enlivens a soup, stew or salad and half the time the person eating them never knows that it is the garlic that has given the magic touch. (If you told them there was garlic in the dish they would quite often refuse to eat it.) But garlic has definite health-giving qualities. Several friends suffering from jaundice recovered very quickly once they ate a garlic bulb a day.

The spate of gardening books that appeared in the past few years suddenly slowed up during the time we were laid off. Even so some useful books appeared and Sheila Macqueen's *Complete Flower Arranging* (Ward Lock, 56.95) is a charming book. It contains 32 pages of coloured illustrations, 30 black and white photographs and 50 exquisite line drawings by Leslie Greenwood who is of course internationally respected for his paintings and drawings of flowers. This is a book that is bound to give pleasure to anyone interested in flower arranging.

Roy Hay

Travel

The year of America, America

As far as holidays are concerned, 1980 is going to be the year of America. Up to 100,000 British visitors are expected to make the long transatlantic crossing, tempted by the cheap fares and lucrative deals now available. I partly by what many see as a long-felt need on the part of British holidaymakers to visit the United States.

There is no doubt that those taking their first holiday in America will be surprised and delighted by what they find in one of the world's most beautiful and hospitable countries. There are some people in the travel industry who feel that the rapid rise in the number of holidays to cowboy country has produced a new era of "Cowboys" over in Britain—and that some of the cheaper holidays on offer may not be all that they seem.

His fear has been most recently voiced by TWA's tour manager, Mrs Sy Peyer, who told a recent conference that it was responsible for any misleading claims in their brochures which could not be fulfilled. He said that the public was encouraged to spend considerable amounts of money on American holidays which could "four people to a room in hotel at the wrong end of beach."

And while Miami Beach was denying that it was the "back" in question, and the Red States Travel Service in London was making rather muted protests, a number of the top names in travel are quietly agreeing with the spoken Mrs Peyer.

As the first thing to say to the many American holiday which are now on offer in Britain on a package basis is to choose carefully. It's not for the cheapest available, and do read more than one company's brochure so you can make comparisons.

With so many different offers of trips to America, it would be in vain to have to make any ritual recommendations. It is to say that I would be happy to travel arrangements were in the hands of the older-established tour operators. Like *Admiral* (whose "America" programme covers all of United States holiday, which caters for first-class tour which takes many of the principal sights at costs from £697), or *Admiral* like *Cornet*, an American firm now operating in Britain.

And not every tour operator to Florida is a cowboy, of course. One might be careful of the choice of desti-

nation, but there is still a whole lot of seaside from which to choose. Look, for example, at *Holiday in Florida's* trips to St Petersburg Beach (known, inevitably, in America as St Pete Beach), where prices for one week start at £313. A week at "St Pete's Beach", coupled with a one-week coach tour of New Orleans and the South, looks good value at from £575.

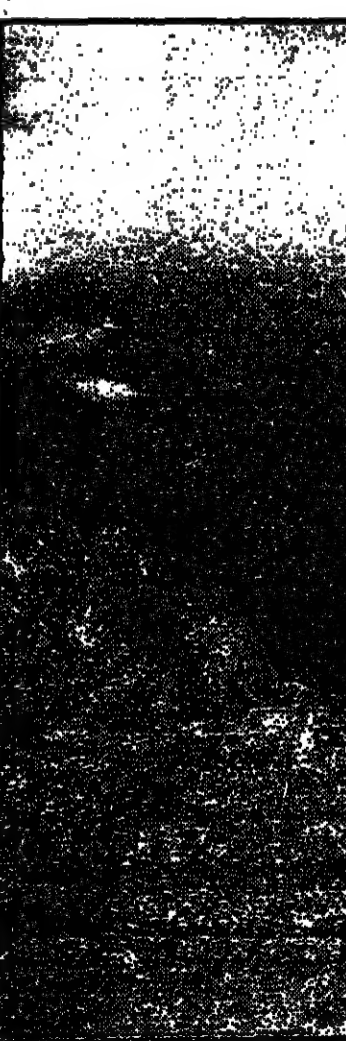
If prices seem high for this or any other long-haul holiday, just remember what your holiday in Spain or Greece cost last summer. Long-haul holidays are not just the best value for money in many of next summer's brochures, they are also cheaper than they will ever be again.

The pick of these destinations, are probably Kenya and Lanka—two places which once had a very up-market image, but which are now within the reach of many holidaymakers. *Enterprise* prices for a week in Kenya, for example, starting in London, at £650. *Enterprise* prices for a week in Kenya, for example, starting in London, at £650.

The same operator's holidays in Sri Lanka, perhaps still better known as Ceylon—start at £318 for a week. In both cases the normal air fare is heavily undercut, never mind the accommodation. And Sri Lanka, in my book, is one of the big holiday resorts of the future.

The other big seller, of course, will be China, although a "big seller" in the context of holidays to China, is a relative expression because the number of people which that country can accommodate is still very limited. Go with an expert, *Thomas Cook*, whose 19-30 day tours feature 15 different itineraries and start at £1,225.

Expensive, perhaps—but still a bargain in terms of what you get for your money. By the same criterion, holidaymakers staying just a little closer to home should get before making up their minds about where to go and what to play. *Tjereborg* are the company who by-pass travel agents and sell direct to the public—a process which has made them anathema to the travel trade but much sought after by satisfied customers. The only direct sell company which is an unreservedly recommended choice for holidaymakers, *Thomas Cook* (from £195 for one week), and the cheapest of their holidays, and Norway (from £364 for a two-week inclusive coach tour).



Peru: the mountain city of the Inca's Machu Picchu

as the best value for money. Prices, incidentally, are unconditionally guaranteed. When looking for a brochure, it is the operator—and not the resort—which is the predominant factor. *Thomas Cook*, for example, pick Portugal and Tunisia as the best value for money—a choice with which *Sovereign Holidays* will agree when they pick Faro, on Portugal's Algarve coast. The latter is, incidentally, an ideal family holiday destination—although you do really need a hired car if you are to see anything other than the beach.

Greece will remain, and even improve its popularity next year. *Blue Sky*, the tour operating arm of British Caledonian, have a comprehensive range of holidays there which includes departures direct from regional airports (example: a week in Crete, flying from Manchester, from £201). And *Wings Cook* holidays are always a good, reliable choice.

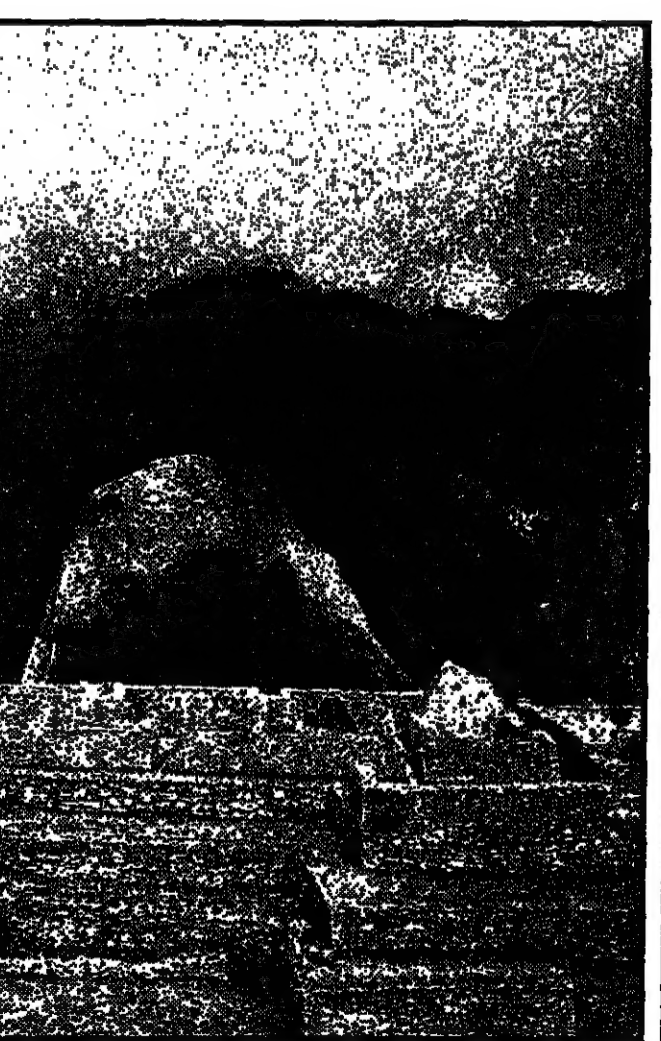
Blue Sky, incidentally, use British Caledonian's South American and African services

James Hosenason, chairman of Hosenason Holidays, estimates that even in the peak season the all-in cost of such a holiday still works out at less than £100 a week per head.

Also good for young families are the Channel Islands. Britain's duty-free islands in the sun where prices for a one-week holiday start at £99 with *Modernline*.

The older generation often seem to prefer coach tours, which still represent one of the travel industry's bigger bargains in terms of what you actually get for your money. A number of very good firms specialize in this field, and it is hard to choose among them. But I like the variety in the *Townsend-Thorsen* programme now being launched—which ranges from a three-day break in Belgium for £27.50 to a two-week holiday in Italy for £226. Ideal if you don't like aeroplanes.

And, still in Italy, it is a pleasure to be able to draw attention to a very small, independent operator who runs what I think must be quite



Peru: the mountain city of the Inca's Machu Picchu

unique holidays in that lovely corner of the world. A feast for eye, mind, and palate is how schoolteacher John Hall describes his *Italian Journeys*, 10-12 day trips aimed at exploring the art, culture—and restaurants—of particular Italian regions. Sample price: £572 for an 11-day trip to the Veneto. Inquiries to J. C. Crane Ltd., 23 Station Approach, Hayes, Kent.

Mr Hall's hand-produced brochures, not to mention his huge percentage of "second time" customers, point to longingly planned holidays run by an enthusiastic, there must be other one-man holiday companies just like his—but you won't find their brochures on the travel agent's shelf, and you won't find their proprietors in the big travel firms, either.

A pity—because the sort of travel company which Mrs Peyer was talking about could learn a lot from them. Not about profits, perhaps—but about holidays.

Robin Mead

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PERSONAL CHOICE



in Cleese and Peter Cook in *The Secret Policeman's Ball* (TV, 11.15)

Radio comes into its own at Christmas. Some say, indeed, that it is during this season that it reestablishes its old monopoly position in broadcasting, and I must say that, looking at some next week's film-clogged TV schedules, I have some sympathy for that view. The old magic starts with today's programmes. Before Midnight (Radio 4, 11.45) is taken up with what may be the shortest pantomime ever heard on radio—Morley's 15-minute version of Aladdin, with Alfred Marks as the sultan, Hugh Paddick as Widow Twankey, Polly James as the sultan's daughter, and Fennella Fielding as the Genie of the Ring and the time-honoured horse. . . . Sir John Betjeman includes his evocative Christmas in his personal choice of poetry and prose in *In Great Pleasure* (Radio 4, 6.55). Naturally, he will read it himself. . . . Tonight's *Saturday Night Theatre* play, *Can Can*, by Noel Robson (Radio 4, 8.30) is a fanciful story about an anachronistic deep financial trouble. Edward de Souza plays the star of operetta and Maureen O'Brien, voted best actress in the last *Pye Radio Awards*, plays Offenbach's wife.

Tonight's ITV presentation of *The Secret Policeman's Ball* (11.15) is an expurgated version of the Amnesty International gala staged at Her Majesty's Theatre in London earlier this year. Expurgated not just for reasons of length but because of the scatological nature of some of the items. The prudent will be able to satisfy their curiosity if they buy the record, but outlandish records (proceeds all go to Amnesty International) contain 12 items from the stage show. They should not, over, expect to be too shocked, for much of the material is objectionable and, indeed, very funny. I am happy to hear that retained items you can see tonight include John Cleese and Peter Cook's conversation about interesting facts ("arable land in the United Kingdom is about the size of the state of Nevada") and the John Cleese/Biffen/Peter Jones/Atkinson sketch about the four Yorkshire men who vie each other to produce the most awful memory of the bad days. The verbal lunacy is counterbalanced by John Williams's playing.

There are female impersonators—and then there are Hinge and Ket. They have created, and exclusively occupy, a category in their own right. For a moment does the facade crack. George in *Notably Evident* and Patrick Fyfe in *Notably Evident*. So completely have they effaced their true selves, indeed, it comes as something of a shock to see their faces, indeed, ten down, you can hear their Christmas gales evening (tonight 12.50), Edwardiana with these, *Edwardiana* on the 12.50.

THE SYMBOLS MEAN: + STEREO; * BLACK AND WHITE; REPEAT.

Broadcasting Guide

Edited by Peter Davalle

TELEVISION

BBC 1

9.30 am Multi-Coloured Swap Swap. Edmonds's something-for-everyone show, with guests like St. Clair, telephonic magician John Sullivan, and young, crumbologist Peter Holden.

12.15 pm Grandstand. The line-up is: 12.20 Football Focus; 12.35, 2.00 and 2.25 Swimming (Arena Sprint from Coventry); 12.45 International Weightlifting (from Tokyo); 2.40 News; 2.50, 3.00, 3.15, 3.30, 3.45, 3.55, 4.05, 4.15, 4.25, 4.35, 4.45, 4.55, 5.05, 5.15, 5.25, 5.35, 5.45, 5.55, 6.05, 6.15, 6.25, 6.35, 6.45, 6.55, 7.05, 7.15, 7.25, 7.35, 7.45, 7.55, 8.05, 8.15, 8.25, 8.35, 8.45, 8.55, 9.05, 9.15, 9.25, 9.35, 9.45, 9.55, 10.05, 10.15, 10.25, 10.35, 10.45, 10.55, 11.05, 11.15, 11.25, 11.35, 11.45, 11.55, 12.05, 12.15, 12.25, 12.35, 12.45, 12.55, 1.05, 1.15, 1.25, 1.35, 1.45, 1.55, 2.05, 2.15, 2.25, 2.35, 2.45, 2.55, 3.05, 3.15, 3.25, 3.35, 3.45, 3.55, 4.05, 4.15, 4.25, 4.35, 4.45, 4.55, 5.05, 5.15, 5.25, 5.35, 5.45, 5.55, 6.05, 6.15, 6.25, 6.35, 6.45, 6.55, 7.05, 7.15, 7.25, 7.35, 7.45, 7.55, 8.05, 8.15, 8.25, 8.35, 8.45, 8.55, 9.05, 9.15, 9.25, 9.35, 9.45, 9.55, 10.05, 10.15, 10.25, 10.35, 10.45, 10.55, 11.05, 11.15, 11.25, 11.35, 11.45, 11.55, 12.05, 12.15, 12.25, 12.35, 12.45, 12.55, 1.05, 1.15, 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The Times Jumbo Crossword

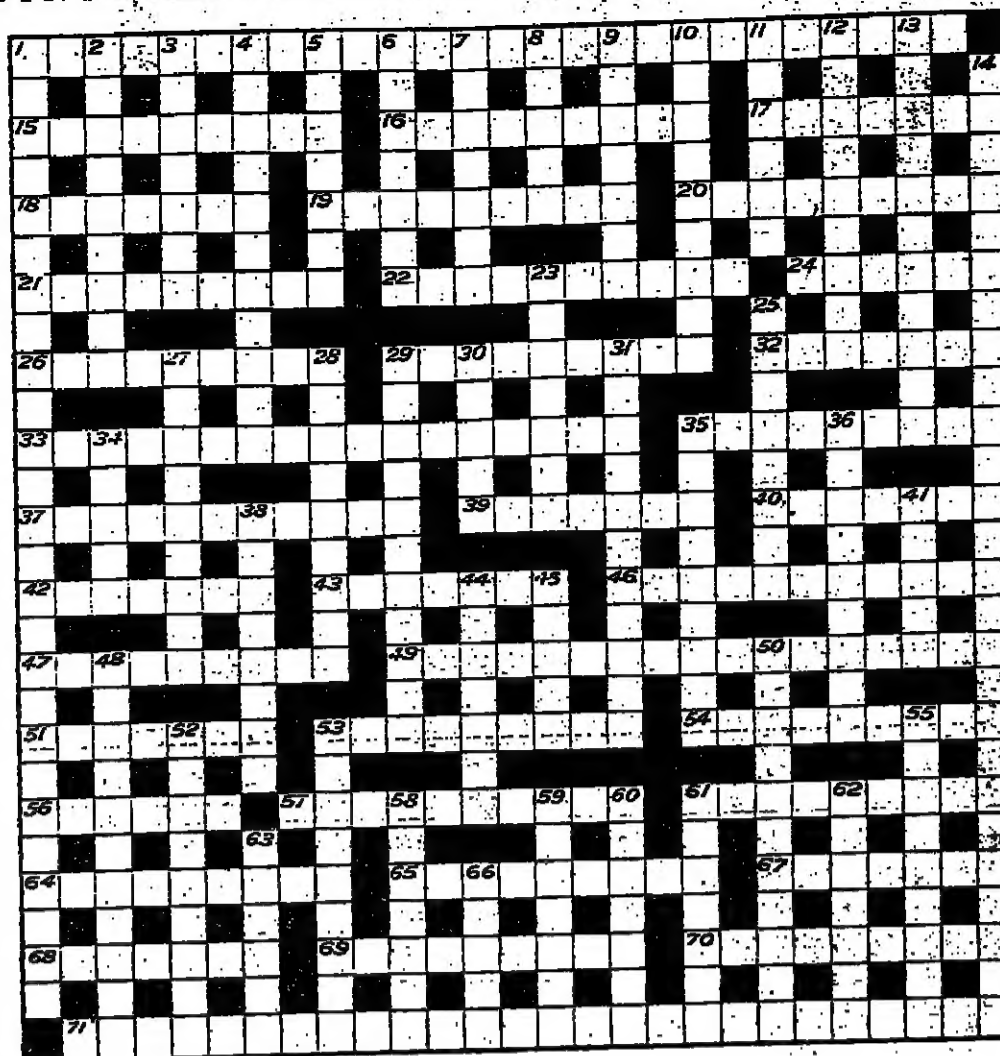
ACROSS

- 1 James I in his blissful ignorance? (3, 6, 4, 2, 11).
- 15 Stirrs up once more, as keen to be involved with war (9).
- 16 Tied up in the theatre (9).
- 17 Playfellow, high-speed number, put in a wager (7).
- 18 First person he always thinks of (7).
- 19 Top-line archbishop first shot at sea (9).
- 20 Leader of Chelsea forwards put centre-half back to complete the circuit (7, 2).
- 21 A serpent in Egypt proved later to be a blooming stick (6, 3).
- 22 Wooker's Dependant—perform it in no fresh setting (10).
- 24 Scoff a hoghead in town of Benjamin (6).
- 26 Many noted irregularly about Jewish deposit (9).
- 29 Tree as cover for one sort of fox, say? (6, 3).
- 32 Band of engineers get together again (7).
- 33 Captain Plume playfully handing out shillings? (10, 7).
- 35 Mental disorder at NATO among intelligence men (9).
- 37 Record a most unusual form of fossil fish (11).
- 39 Jack, that dogged person (7).
- 40 Enlivened by an instrument of punishment without of employment (7).
- 42 Tucking in, in foreign soil, to pâté for instance (7).
- 43 Condescended to take gin cocktail indeed! (7).
- 46 Author Cecil Scott capturing everybody—by his anticipation? (11).
- 47 Nudist hen? (9).
- 49 I quit class in aid of reform of such examination penalties (12).
- 51 Strong currents here where pure uranium is processed (7).
- 53 The present woolly state of the garden (3, 6).
- 54 Voice raised against Abraham's nephew perhaps (9).
- 56 Returning soldiers catching strange fabulous bird (6).
- 57 Ignores Miss Marlow's kind compliments (10).
- 61 As infallible as pious asinorum? (9).
- 62 Like an employee's contract, if about three quarters complete (9).
- 63 Big surprise—giving Old Bill alternative accommodation? (9).
- 67 One writing about a job in taxes (7).
- 68 Mycenaean girl, whose brother hid in the forest, escaping (7).
- 69 For closing gap, arranged £200 (no IOUs) (9).
- 70 Capital (if cacophonous) serenade once good enough for Punch (9).
- 71 Our temperously onerous make-up (4, 5, 2, 6, 3, 4, 2).

DOWN

- 1 Southwark shopkeepers, whose trade was more fitting than their self-description (5, 7, 2, 6, 6).
- 2 As Thrasa thought she was, of all ass (9).
- 3 Geneva's European associate (7).
- 4 Damaged jet? So, create this means of escape (7, 4).
- 5 Struggled wildly with leaders of armed armaments when assaulted (7).
- 6 Nonsensical shapes of Lear's Zemzem Fidd oysters (7).
- 7 Turned up excellent floor-covering, under £1 in Italy (7).
- 8 Wielded needles, we hear, that appeared shining (5).
- 9 Smollett's Roderick describes Hilton's (7).
- 10 Litmus, in acid set-up, turns red abroad (9).
- 11 Burns's hero in love with Mozart's flautist (6).
- 12 A quid on new gin, we hear, from the Nag's Head (9).
- 13 Vaccine leap (4, 3, 4).
- 14 Good order combines Great Britain's form with the mode of her location (9, 3, 7, 7).
- 15 Punishes or serves me right among them (7).
- 16 Worry over sayings that are cutting (8).
- 17 Bird grounded with tail trouble on seeking to rived another (9).
- 18 Some might enter denial that its steeples caused the Goodwin Sands (9).
- 19 The outlook for anti-blast protection (5-6).
- 20 One of those who go in for long sentences (5).
- 21 Not entirely thus do we come trailing clouds of glory (11).
- 22 Is this cousin a provision merchant? (5).
- 23 This value of coal mixed with fir, up one cent (9).
- 24 Cold-and-Mammon sort of sailing ship? (3-6).
- 25 Open question which makes us sweat (8).
- 26 Thus, grabbing a meal ticket, goes discharge from the Navy (5).
- 27 Gets inside information sent up, giving financial reserve (4-3).
- 28 Many strong drinks at these old parties (5).
- 29 A case of amog for instance (11).
- 30 Do sectional amalgamation (11).
- 31 With half the crew on duty, vigil of proverbial sailor's wife? (4, 5).
- 32 Back-stage rows? (3).
- 33 Holmer's Cyrena Capulata (5, 4).
- 34 But in a Scottish story Isaac's daughter (7).
- 35 After repose one half very refractory (7).
- 36 Breastbone of the bird which, Latin-style, I am eating (7).
- 37 Change of fuel, small quantity a vessel required (7).
- 38 Reasoning with which Peter captured the striker's heart (7).
- 39 An objection about the French vowel change (6).
- 40 Huxley's Jonah sat on "the convex" of one vast kidney? (5).

Prizes of £12 each will be given to the first three correct solutions opened on Thursday, January 3. Entries should be addressed to The Times Jumbo Crossword Competition, 12 Coley Street, London WC9 9YT. The winners and solution will be announced on Saturday, January 5.



Name

Address

Chess

Elo is not all bad

My assault the other week on the Elo rating system has prompted a correspondent to write that he is puzzled by the apparent conflict between your chess article and some remarks upon the Elo rating system in your *A History of Chess*. For example, in your article in *The Times* you state that "there would be no need for all this if the rating system had never been invented". However, on page 217 of the book mentioned, I read:

"Eventually, too, a scheme of rating players under a system devised by Professor Elo was to come into operation and to prove revolutionary in its effect on grading and classification."

I am grateful to Mr Pickering for giving me the opportunity of returning to the theme of my article a couple of weeks ago for I am not one of those who believe in the dictum *non rediens ad comitum* and I have something more to say on the subject.

In the first place, and bearing this in mind, it should be known that in the week in question space was short. The editorial art is no sparer of the gentle art of compromise and my illustrations of the faulty workings of the rating system looked like a denunciation.

Even so I do not think there was any real conflict with what I had written about the system in my *History of Chess*. As a historian it was my duty to state the facts objectively and without malice prepense. Had I been chronicling the end of the world I should not have accompanied my description with any animadversion implying blame or regret.

And in fact I was chronicling the end of one type of chess world. The Elo rating system both reflected the popularization of chess and assisted in making it more popular. That is clear from what I wrote in the *History* and in my article.

The trouble, and the benefit, arising out of this popularization, lay in the greatly increased financial rewards attendant upon success in tournaments and other chess events. A master, and still more a grandmaster, can make a good living out of this and hence the terms of master and grandmaster have become not merely empty titles of respect but positive titles bringing in monetary rewards.

How significant rating systems are in deciding what the respective rewards are can be seen by the increasingly common practice of tournament organizers in paying the competitors in their events a fixed honorarium if they are masters and a larger fixed sum if they are grandmasters. The importance of this rating system in this is that titles can be obtained only through the workings of the rating system.

Again this would be quite in order if a perfect rating system could be devised, a system which ruled out any inflationary process and maintained the standards at a continuously high level.

the titles. Every comparatively weak master and grandmaster is the cause of further weaknesses in the system.

True the categories of each tournament are graded in accordance with the strength, Elo-rating wise, of the competitors and the lower the score the higher the total of points it is necessary to attain for a title.

But, not only are the requirements never severe enough but there are categories so low that it does not matter how high a total is fixed for the acquiring of a title. The events of title-holding could still not be of real master or grandmaster strength despite his attaining a vast quantity of points.

I mentioned in my article earlier this month the names of those players who were genuine grandmasters when I was young. They were Alekhine, Capablanca, Emanuel Lasker, Nimzowitsch, Rubinstein and Bogoljubov. Naturally we have genuine grandmasters of this calibre now, but they are well-known names—Karpov, Tal, Korchnoi, Spassky, Larsen, Petrosian and Portisch, readily spring to mind.

But, and here's the rub, there are a whole host of players who also have this title of grandmaster and have attained this rank through the rating system, mostly by genuine results but some, it seems, by bribery and corruption. Many of these so-called grandmasters would not have been deemed first-class masters in the days of Alekhine and Capablanca.

In one way this is not particularly to be deprecated. There is no reason after all why lesser artists should not make a living out of practising their art in a capable, efficient, but not necessarily superlative way. But they, and the world at large should not cherish the illusion that the art of chess has become widespread and of such high quality in our time that we rejoice in the possession of many more great players than there were, say, 50 years ago. That is more a large proportion of our misnomers are Tritons is an impure optical illusion.

I hope my correspondent is satisfied with this explanation. In any case I think I have now supplied him with sufficient facts and arguments to form the basis of some lively debates at the next meeting of the Charterhouse School Chess Club.

One practical way of testing out the Elo rating system and the present methods of awarding titles is to consider the results of international tournaments. The strongest in progress at the moment is the Soviet championship at Minsk and obviously it is the final result that must count. Meanwhile I have to report that the 18 player tournament which contains seven international masters and 11 international grandmasters the lead after eight rounds is shared between two international masters, the 16-year-old Garry Kasparov and the 30-year-old Viktor Kuperchik who have 5½ points each.

It may be even that Kuperchik is in the sole lead since he has an adjourned game in hand. After losing his first round game he has had an astonishing series of five wins, four of which were achieved against players with much superior Elo ratings. Naturally, in the long run this will act as its

own corrective but the rating system works so ponderously that it will take more than a year before the correction is done.

As the following game from the seventh round shows, Kuperchik has a lively and adventurous style and, if he was much assisted by his adversary in this instance, at least he deserved to be so assisted through his brilliant daring.

White V. Kuperchik. Black Y. Anikav. Sicilian Defence.

1 P-K4 P-Q4 2 P-Q4 P-Q4 3 P-Q4 P-Q4 4 N-P3 N-B3 5 P-K3 P-Q4 6 P-Q4 P-Q4 7 P-Q4 P-Q4 8 P-Q4 P-Q4 9 P-Q4 P-Q4 10 P-Q4 P-Q4 11 P-Q4 P-Q4 12 P-Q4 P-Q4 13 P-Q4 P-Q4 14 P-Q4 P-Q4 15 P-Q4 P-Q4 16 P-Q4 P-Q4 17 P-Q4 P-Q4 18 P-Q4 P-Q4 19 P-Q4 P-Q4 20 P-Q4 P-Q4 21 P-Q4 P-Q4 22 P-Q4 P-Q4 23 P-Q4 P-Q4 24 P-Q4 P-Q4 25 P-Q4 P-Q4 26 P-Q4 P-Q4 27 P-Q4 P-Q4 28 P-Q4 P-Q4 29 P-Q4 P-Q4 30 P-Q4 P-Q4 31 P-Q4 P-Q4 32 P-Q4 P-Q4 33 P-Q4 P-Q4 34 P-Q4 P-Q4 35 P-Q4 P-Q4 36 P-Q4 P-Q4 37 P-Q4 P-Q4 38 P-Q4 P-Q4 39 P-Q4 P-Q4 40 P-Q4 P-Q4 41 P-Q4 P-Q4 42 P-Q4 P-Q4 43 P-Q4 P-Q4 44 P-Q4 P-Q4 45 P-Q4 P-Q4 46 P-Q4 P-Q4 47 P-Q4 P-Q4 48 P-Q4 P-Q4 49 P-Q4 P-Q4 50 P-Q4 P-Q4 51 P-Q4 P-Q4 52 P-Q4 P-Q4 53 P-Q4 P-Q4 54 P-Q4 P-Q4 55 P-Q4 P-Q4 56 P-Q4 P-Q4 57 P-Q4 P-Q4 58 P-Q4 P-Q4 59 P-Q4 P-Q4 60 P-Q4 P-Q4 61 P-Q4 P-Q4 62 P-Q4 P-Q4 63 P-Q4 P-Q4 64 P-Q4 P-Q4 65 P-Q4 P-Q4 66 P-Q4 P-Q4 67 P-Q4 P-Q4 68 P-Q4 P-Q4 69 P-Q4 P-Q4 70 P-Q4 P-Q4 71 P-Q4 P-Q4 72 P-Q4 P-Q4 73 P-Q4 P-Q4 74 P-Q4 P-Q4 75 P-Q4 P-Q4 76 P-Q4 P-Q4 77 P-Q4 P-Q4 78 P-Q4 P-Q4 79 P-Q4 P-Q4 80 P-Q4 P-Q4 81 P-Q4 P-Q4 82 P-Q4 P-Q4 83 P-Q4 P-Q4 84 P-Q4 P-Q4 85 P-Q4 P-Q4 86 P-Q4 P-Q4 87 P-Q4 P-Q4 88 P-Q4 P-Q4 89 P-Q4 P-Q4 90 P-Q4 P-Q4 91 P-Q4 P-Q4 92 P-Q4 P-Q4 93 P-Q4 P-Q4 94 P-Q4 P-Q4 95 P-Q4 P-Q4 96 P-Q4 P-Q4 97 P-Q4 P-Q4 98 P-Q4 P-Q4 99 P-Q4 P-Q4 100 P-Q4 P-Q4 101 P-Q4 P-Q4 102 P-Q4 P-Q4 103 P-Q4 P-Q4 104 P-Q4 P-Q4 105 P-Q4 P-Q4 106 P-Q4 P-Q4 107 P-Q4 P-Q4 108 P-Q4 P-Q4 109 P-Q4 P-Q4 110 P-Q4 P-Q4 111 P-Q4 P-Q4 112 P-Q4 P-Q4 113 P-Q4 P-Q4 114 P-Q4 P-Q4 115 P-Q4 P-Q4 116 P-Q4 P-Q4 117 P-Q4 P-Q4 118 P-Q4 P-Q4 119 P-Q4 P-Q4 120 P-Q4 P-Q4 121 P-Q4 P-Q4 122 P-Q4 P-Q4 123 P-Q4 P-Q4 124 P-Q4 P-Q4 125 P-Q4 P-Q4 126 P-Q4 P-Q4 127 P-Q4 P-Q4 128 P-Q4 P-Q4 129 P-Q4 P-Q4 130 P-Q4 P-Q4 131 P-Q4 P-Q4 132 P-Q4 P-Q4 133 P-Q4 P-Q4 134 P-Q4 P-Q4 135 P-Q4 P-Q4 136 P-Q4 P-Q4 137 P-Q4 P-Q4 138 P-Q4 P-Q4 139 P-Q4 P-Q4 140 P-Q4 P-Q4 141 P-Q4 P-Q4 142 P-Q4 P-Q4 143 P-Q4 P-Q4 144 P-Q4 P-Q4 145 P-Q4 P-Q4 146 P-Q4 P-Q4 147 P-Q4 P-Q4 148 P-Q4 P-Q4 149 P-Q4 P-Q4 150 P-Q4 P-Q4 151 P-Q4 P-Q4 152 P-Q4 P-Q4 153 P-Q4 P-Q4 154 P-Q4 P-Q4 155 P-Q4 P-Q4 156 P-Q4 P-Q4 157 P-Q4 P-Q4 158 P-Q4 P-Q4 159 P-Q4 P-Q4 160 P-Q4 P-Q4 161 P-Q4 P-Q4 162 P-Q4 P-Q4 163 P-Q4 P-Q4 164 P-Q4 P-Q4 165 P-Q4 P-Q4 166 P-Q4 P-Q4 167 P-Q4 P-Q4 168 P-Q4 P-Q4 169 P-Q4 P-Q4 170 P-Q4 P-Q4 171 P-Q4 P-Q4 172 P-Q4 P-Q4 173 P-Q4 P-Q4 174 P-Q4 P-Q4 175 P-Q4 P-Q4 176 P-Q4 P-Q4 177 P-Q4 P-Q4 178 P-Q4 P-Q4 179 P-Q4 P-Q4 180 P-Q4 P-Q4 181 P-Q4 P-Q4 182 P-Q4 P-Q4 183 P-Q4 P-Q4 184 P-Q4 P-Q4 185 P-Q4 P-Q4 186 P-Q4 P-Q4 187 P-Q4 P-Q4 188 P-Q4 P-Q4 189 P-Q4 P-Q4 190 P-Q4 P-Q4 191 P-Q4 P-Q4 192 P-Q4 P-Q4 193 P-Q4 P-Q4 194 P-Q4 P-Q4 195 P-Q4 P-Q4 196 P-Q4 P-Q4 197 P-Q4 P-Q4 198 P-Q4 P-Q4 199 P-Q4 P-Q4 200 P-Q4 P-Q4 201 P-Q4 P-Q4 202 P-Q4 P-Q4 203 P-Q4 P-Q4 204 P-Q4 P-Q4 205 P-Q4 P-Q4 206 P-Q4 P-Q4 207 P-Q4 P-Q4 208 P-Q4 P-Q4 209 P-Q4 P-Q4 210 P-Q4 P-Q4 211 P-Q4 P-Q4 212 P-Q4 P-Q4 213 P-Q4 P-Q4 214 P-Q4 P-Q4 215 P-Q4 P-Q4 216 P-Q4 P-Q4 217 P-Q4 P-Q4 218 P-Q4 P-Q4 219 P-Q4 P-Q4 220 P-Q4 P-Q4 221 P-Q4 P-Q4 222 P-Q4 P-Q4 223 P-Q4 P-Q4 224 P-Q4 P-Q4 225 P-Q4 P-Q4 226 P-Q4 P-Q4 227 P-Q4 P-Q4 228 P-Q4 P-Q4 229 P-Q4 P-Q4 230 P-Q4 P-Q4 231 P-Q4 P-Q4 232 P-Q4 P-Q4 233 P-Q4 P-Q4 234 P-Q4 P-Q4 235 P-Q4 P-Q4 236 P-Q4 P-Q4 237 P-Q4 P-Q4 238 P-Q4 P-Q4 239 P-Q4 P-Q4 240 P-Q4 P-Q4 241 P-Q4 P-Q4 242 P-Q4 P-Q4 243 P-Q4 P-Q4 244 P-Q4 P-Q4 245 P-Q4 P-Q4 246 P-Q4 P-Q4 247 P-Q4 P-Q4 248 P-Q4 P-Q4 249 P-Q4 P-Q4 250 P-Q4 P-Q4 251 P-Q4 P-Q4 252 P-Q4 P-Q4 253 P-Q4 P-Q4 254 P-Q4 P-Q4 255 P-Q4 P-Q4 256 P-Q4 P-Q4 257 P-Q4 P-Q4 258 P-Q4 P-Q4 259 P-Q4 P-Q4 260 P-Q4 P-Q4 261 P-Q4 P-Q4 262 P-Q4 P-Q4 263 P-Q4 P-Q4 264 P-Q4 P-Q4 265 P-Q4 P-Q4 266 P-Q4 P-Q4 267 P-Q4 P-Q4 268 P-Q4 P-Q4 269 P-Q4 P-Q4 270 P-Q4 P-Q4 271 P-Q4 P-Q4 272 P-Q4 P-Q4 273 P-Q4 P-Q4 274 P-Q4 P-Q4 275 P-Q4 P-Q4 276 P-Q4 P-Q4 277 P-Q4 P-Q4 278 P-Q4 P-Q4 279 P-Q4 P-Q4 280 P-Q4 P-Q4 281 P-Q4 P-Q4 282 P-Q4 P-Q4 283 P-Q4 P-Q4 284 P-Q4 P-Q4 285 P-Q4 P-Q4 286 P-Q4 P-Q4 287 P-Q4 P-Q4 288 P-Q4 P-Q4 289 P-Q4 P-Q4 290 P-Q4 P-Q4 291 P-Q4 P-Q4 292 P-Q4 P-Q4 293 P-Q4 P-Q4 294 P-Q4 P-Q4 295 P-Q4 P-Q4 296 P-Q4 P-Q4 297 P-Q4 P-Q4 298 P-Q4 P-Q4 299 P-Q4 P-Q4 300 P-Q4 P-Q4 301 P-Q4 P-Q4 302 P-Q4 P-Q4 303 P-Q4 P-Q4 304 P-Q4 P-Q4 305 P-Q4 P-Q4 306 P-Q4 P-Q4 307 P-Q4 P-Q4 308 P-Q4 P-Q4 309 P-Q4 P-Q4 310 P-Q4 P-Q4 311 P-Q4 P-Q4 312 P-Q4 P-Q4 313 P-Q4 P-Q4 314 P-Q4 P-Q4 315 P-Q4 P-Q4 316 P-Q4 P-Q4 317 P-Q4 P-Q4 318 P-Q4 P-Q4 319 P-Q4 P-Q4 320 P-Q4 P-Q4 321 P-Q4 P-Q4 322 P-Q4 P-Q4 323 P-Q4 P-Q4 324 P-Q4 P-Q4 325 P-Q4 P-Q4 326 P-Q4 P-Q4 327 P-Q4 P-Q4 328 P-Q4 P-Q4 329 P-Q4 P-Q4 330 P-Q4 P-Q4 331 P-Q4 P-Q4 332 P-Q4 P-Q4 333 P-Q4 P-Q4 334 P-Q4 P-Q4 335 P-Q4 P-Q4 336 P-Q4 P-Q4 337 P-Q4 P-Q4 338 P-Q4 P-Q4 339 P-Q4 P-Q4 340 P-Q4 P-Q4 341 P-Q4 P-Q4 342 P-Q4 P-Q4 343 P-Q4 P-Q4 344 P-Q4 P-Q4 345 P-Q4 P-Q4 346 P-Q4 P-Q4 347 P-Q4 P-Q4 348 P-Q4 P-Q4 349 P-Q4 P-Q4 350 P-Q4 P-Q4 351 P-Q4 P-Q4 352 P-Q4 P-Q4 353 P-Q4 P-Q4 354 P-Q4 P-Q4 355 P-Q4 P-Q4 356 P-Q4 P-Q4 357 P-Q4 P-Q4 358 P-Q4 P-Q4 359 P-Q4 P-Q4 360 P-Q4 P-Q4 361 P-Q4 P-Q4 362 P-Q4 P-Q4 363 P-Q4 P-Q4 364 P-Q4 P-Q4 365 P-Q4 P-Q4 366 P-Q4 P-Q4 367 P-Q4 P-Q4 368 P-Q4 P-Q4 369 P-Q4 P-Q4 370 P-Q4 P-Q4 371 P-Q4 P-Q4 372 P-Q4 P-Q4 373 P-Q4 P-Q4 374 P-Q4 P-Q4 375 P-Q4 P-Q4 376 P-Q4 P-Q4 377 P-Q4 P-Q4 378 P-Q4 P-Q4 379 P-Q4 P-Q4 380 P-Q4 P-Q4 381 P-Q4 P-Q4 382 P-Q4 P-Q4 383 P-Q4 P-Q4 384 P-Q4 P-Q4 385 P-Q4 P-Q4 386 P-Q4 P-Q4 387 P-Q4 P-Q4 388 P-Q4 P-Q4 389 P-Q4 P-Q4 390 P-Q4 P-Q4 391 P-Q4 P-Q4 392 P-Q4 P-Q4 393 P-Q4 P-Q4 394 P-Q4 P-Q4 395 P-Q4 P-Q4 396 P-Q4 P-Q4 397 P-Q4 P-Q4 398 P-Q4 P-Q4 399 P-Q4 P-Q4 400 P-Q4 P-Q4 401 P-Q4 P-Q4 402 P-Q4 P-Q4 403 P-Q4 P-Q4 404 P-Q4 P-Q4 405 P-Q4 P-Q4 406 P-Q4 P-Q4 407 P-Q4 P-Q4 408 P-Q4 P-Q4 409 P-Q4 P-Q4 410 P-Q4 P-Q4 411 P-Q4 P-Q4 412 P-Q4 P-Q4 413 P-Q4 P-Q4 414 P-Q4 P-Q4 415 P-Q4 P-Q4 416 P-Q4 P-Q4 417 P-Q4 P-Q4 418 P-Q4 P-Q4 419 P-Q4 P-Q4 420 P-Q4 P-Q4 421 P-Q4 P-Q4 422 P-Q4 P-Q4 423 P-Q4 P-Q4 424 P-Q4 P-Q4 425 P-Q4 P-Q4 426 P-Q4 P-Q4 427 P-Q4 P-Q4 428 P-Q4 P-Q4 429 P-Q4 P-Q4 430 P-Q4 P-Q4 431 P-Q4 P-Q4 432 P-Q4 P-Q4 433 P-Q4 P-Q4 434 P-Q4 P-Q4 435 P-Q4 P-Q4 436 P-Q4 P-Q4 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Byron Rogers on how the Good Book Guide reached the top twenty

From Battersea to almost everywhere

Opposite the Battersea Dogs Home there is a large, cluttered room that at this time of year could pass for the most legendary store-house of all. The Christmas parcels are piled high on shelves, small tabs indicating their destinations. Books for Argentina. Some 5120 worth of books for a man in Antigua.

The erotic tales of Miss Arcus Nin, and somebody somewhere should forget the dogs howling in the Arctic night. Edward Ardizzone's illustrations to *A Child's Christmas in Wales* and, under a tropic sun, someone could remember snow. As you pass between the shelves you can almost hear Francis and Dancer impatient in the streets of Battersea.

It is the *Good Book Guide's* third Christmas. To Battersea have come orders from desperate ladies in Spain ("I am down to my last Western"), from weary readers in Ghana ("when you live in a collection of mud huts miles from anywhere..."), and from bouncy gold prospectors in the middle of Australia ("Wow, a handwritten reply. I'm really a person"). And out go the books.

They sold 100,000 books this year. Next year they expect to sell 250,000. It means that one large room in Battersea is now, after just over two years,

among the top 20 British book sellers. Yet they have no shop, no sales counter, no advertising budget.

There is just the fact that two years ago someone had a very good idea.

"It occurred to us that people are either frustrated by not being able to get books, or overwhelmed by the choice offered them," said Peter Braithwaite.

He was a McKinsey business consultant in Tanzania (for it was a long road to Battersea) when he met a childhood friend, Bing Taylor, who worked for Longmans. From this meeting came the *Good Book Guide*.

Their operation is in two parts. They publish a magazine, the guide, four issues a year, £4 a year. It is an attractive publication, each cover being a reproduction of one of their favourite painters. Inside are short notes on books that appeal to the panel of 15 readers that they have set up.

The magazine now has a circulation of 40,000 and covers its costs. It does not make money. That comes when readers order the books. These Braithwaite and Taylor supply, at a discount, to the bookshops. This is the second part of their operation, an armchair book service.

"We don't push this. We have a supply service. It's there, and it's available. We are an

One large room in Battersea

is now among the top 20

British booksellers. Yet

it has no sales counter.

information service and a supply service only if people want it.

"We're not like *Which?* Books can't be analysed like fridges. Some can. We analysed editions of Shakespeare and listed their qualities: up to date scholarship, illustrations, the best value.

"We think we're more like the *Good Food Guide*. But whereas you can't deliver meals you can deliver books."

It is on this first premise that the operation turns.

In some ways it is an antithesis of the mail-order business. "We were told not to touch paperbacks, that there wouldn't be any profit in them. We were told to specialise. We were told not to waste space on books that wouldn't sell,

like books on Dischinger or Robert Adam.

"We were told to use the front of the guide to promote books. We were told to ask publishers for support."

Peter Braithwaite paused. "We have done none of this."

They review 1,000 books a year out of the 40,000 published. The choice, they say, reflects their own tastes.

"They are what I would want to read if I were cut off," said Peter Braithwaite briskly.

This is the second premise on which the operation depends, that great number of people do not have access to bookshops. There is apparently no bookshop in all Wandsworth, 750,000 people. They quote the Sheffield sociologist Peter Mann's findings that a great

chunk of Yorkshire resembles an area through which the Gophers have passed every week for a year. And as for overseas... some 60 per cent of their books are now exported.

They don't go in for a class much in the guide. The sharpest thing they could remember saying was that a book by Mr Edward Heath was nothing more than "a collection of snapshots". Instead of saying that Mr Ian McEwan has more need of a psychiatrist than a publisher, they will say: "At times nasty, macabre, and weird, but exact, controlled, and beautifully written."

It reads at times like an essay by a wary schoolgirl.

Mr Arthur Hailey's *Overload* they describe as "A fast-moving dramatic novel for Hailey addicts".

The grand lend their imprimatur. Lady Antonia Fraser looks down from Olympus on *History as People*. Doctor Magnus Pyke lists his favourite books on nutrition: they include Cecil Woodham-Smith's *The Great Hunger*, her classic account of the Irish potato famine.

"The guide is very respectable. No romantic novels are listed (once you open the gates on them...)" and none of Miss Jackie Collins's reveries. They once included a Harold Robbins but none of their readers were interested.

To everything they bring the

sort of touch customers might have encountered in a small country bookshop. Replies are handwritten which brings whoops of joy out of the Australian Outback. Strange relationships flourish. Readers write in and complain of the lateness of Spanish postmen. They mention German relatives coming to stay. Some sound as though buying books is a small price to pay for having a new collection of pen-friends.

The guide has organized reading circles in places like Geneva and Kuwait. It seems to be doing wonders for its readers' social lives.

So where will it end? "An ordinary bookshop is limited by space," said Peter Braithwaite. "But we don't see any limits. We are an international bookshop and there are millions of expatriates, all cut off."

The sun that set on the British Empire is now rising again on the *Good Book Guide*, and the stars are Mr McEwan, Dr Pyke and Miss Anna Nip. The guide is not at all wary about Miss Nip.

"These are highly sensual short stories by a mistress of the erotic. Inventive and subtle," they passionately express the nature of women's sexual life.

That should keep them home to the igloos.

The secret fight of the large blue

In a remote area of the Cotswold Hills, Britain's rarest and most unique form of lepidoptera—the large blue butterfly (maculinea arion)—is making a dramatic, but secret fight for survival. This mysterious, beautiful creature of the wild, is fighting all its adversaries—modern methods of farming, destruction of habitats and collectors.

The large blue was observed on July 12 and again, on July 16, this year. A wildlife adventure expedition to the Cotswolds some years ago, led to my re-discovery of the large blue, though at the time it was widely believed that this remarkable butterfly had been extinct for more than 40 years. Later, in the same year my attention was drawn to a caterpillar being troubled by red ants.

It highlighted yet another discovery of the large blue for a further observation showed that this was a thriving colony. When the caterpillars pupate, it attaches itself to the roof of the chamber, suspended by a silken thread, then drops down, to lie for another 20 days or so. Then the butterfly emerges and with folded wings makes its way through the passages of the ant-hill.

I also had the good fortune to purchase a small part of the land, which is now a nature reserve and habitat for maculinea arion and other butterflies. I also found a fair amount of wild-thyme, as only with this wild-flower and the red ant will the large blue have any chance of survival.



During numerous journeys to the most distant parts of the British Isles, I observed and collected a number of interesting variations of wild-thyme. I have long realized that once collectors were prevented from taking the large blue butterfly by Act of Parliament, wild-thyme held the key to conservation of this unique species.

This project concerning the large blue butterfly, was named to include that of the late Gavin Maxwell who wrote *Ring of Bright Water* (The Gavin Maxwell Lodge Large Blue Butterfly Project). Major Maxwell was not only a most distinguished Scottish author, naturalist and Foundation President of the British Wildlife Society, Wilderplains, but also a knowledgeable lepidopterist, and displayed much interest in the eventually successful expeditions undertaken to the Outer Hebrides, in search of the large blue butterfly.

Even during the Second World War, Gavin Maxwell would spend the little free time available from his duties with SOE, searching for rare butterflies and moths. In connecting his name with the project, I feel it is a way of thanking the man we knew—a person of courage, moral fibre, loyalty and great charm.

John Lodge

The author is Secretary of the British Wildlife Society—Wilderplains.

Dr Tony Smith on trends and teenagers

Kids are what they used to be

Youthfully attractive, noisy, energetic, and emotionally unstable, teenagers have always provoked envy, impatience, and disapproval from their elders. Several recent changes have exacerbated this conflict. Many more teenagers now continue in full-time education, supported in some degree by their parents, at a time when they are emotionally ready to be independent.

As young people have become more affluent a whole culture of advertising and promotion has developed to influence their spending, and the ascendancy of this pop culture grates on many adults. Students and the young generally have become more active in radical social and political movements, demanding attention by unconventional methods.

All these trends have exaggerated the differences between the young and the adult worlds, and adolescent behaviour often baffles parents and may seem threatening to society at large. Are these grounds for concern? Are adolescents today more disturbed and alienated from society than were previous generations?

A detailed analysis, *Changing Youth in a Changing Society* (Nuffield Provincial Hospitals Trust, £7.50) has just been published by Professor Michael Rutter of the Institute of Psychiatry, who has been studying children's behaviour since the early 1960s. He uses research findings not only to refute misconceptions but also to present unpalatable facts in such a way that they cannot be discounted.

Parental attitudes and environmental factors such as schooling and housing emerge as dominant influences on adolescent development. Children who lack a normal, stable family to grow up in are at increased risk of delinquency and other adolescent disorders. Yet despite the widespread belief that most teenagers become increasingly estranged from their family, the evidence is to the contrary. Surveys in Europe and the United States have shown that, in general, adolescents believe their parents understand them.



accept their parents' values, look to them for advice, and find parental disapproval disturbing.

The much-publicised influence of the peer group of teenage friends seems to operate strongly on clothes and leisure activities but far less so on principles of behaviour. Parents' values are passed to their children. The concept of parent-child alienation as a usual feature of adolescence is, says Professor Rutter, a myth.

On the other hand he reinforces widely held beliefs about schools and housing. Schooling is, he maintains, the most important influence on behaviour—even on delinquency rates—as well as on scholastic attainment.

Teachers' behaviour and class management are also important, as is firm leadership by the staff. The results—in terms of academic attainments and delinquency rates—are worse in schools with a high proportion of intellectually less able children, and this applies to the whole of the country. Professor Rutter's conclusion is that an educational system which allows uneven distribution of children (assessed by ability) has considerable disadvantages.

for the majority: selection benefits only the selected minority. In the long run, he believes that the best solution may prove the creation of communities sufficiently mixed socially to provide community schools with a reasonable balance of intakes.

Delinquency rates and other markers of adolescent disturbance vary markedly with geographical areas, suggesting an association with housing, but the crucial factor seems to be the concentration of families with a high risk of adolescent problems—low-income groups, single parent households, and those with fathers unemployed. Once again lumping the disadvantaged together has disastrous results.

How important an influence is television? No doubt it can be a powerful medium for education, but the main reason for concern, says Professor Rutter, is its inhibiting effect on family conversation. The damage may be caused not by the programmes on the screen but by television stopping families talking and playing games, and preventing the arguments and the festivities through which a child's normal learning occurs. No doubt some of these

research findings will be dismissed as opinion. Objective measures show, however, that there has been a sustained rise in the past two decades in adolescent psychosocial problems: attempted suicide, anorexia nervosa, alcoholism and drug abuse, and delinquency. Educational standards are another cause for concern, with fewer children staying on at school after 16 than 10 years ago, and with scholastic attainments (at best) having stopped improving.

Professor Rutter does not claim to have any new, instant answers. Much could be done on the basis of current knowledge, and he makes specific suggestions. Firstly, a preventive approach is needed: the numbers of unwed mothers and births of babies with physical handicaps could both be reduced by medical efforts. Once born, children need competent parents, and he suggests that those born to parents who seem unlikely ever to be able to look after them properly should be adopted or fostered early. He believes that alcohol should be made more expensive, and less easily available, that doctors should tighten their prescriptions to make access to drugs more difficult, and that vandalism should be combated by better maintenance and surveillance of public buildings.

Most important, perhaps, is the conviction that "runs through the book that good intentions are not enough. The two most striking features of child care manuals over the years, he says, have been that the professionals have expressed certainty as to one time on the best method of child rearing and that these recommendations have altered every decade. No one grand strategy will solve all adolescent problems, and whatever the methods tried, their application should be constantly monitored and assessed. By learning from its mistakes our society may eventually find ways to reduce the numbers of its child casualties.

Dr Tony Smith
Medical Correspondent

SPORTS DIARY

No substitute for a piece of willow

Nearly 20 years ago, on Christmas Eve, I had just read a newspaper report of the last day's play of a Test match in Calcutta when Ron Roberts, who had written it and his family knocked on my front door in Hampshire. "I'm on my way from Calcutta to Delhi," he said, "and thought I'd have Christmas at home."

They were driving down to stay with his parents in Taunton and there were still five days to go before the next Test match started in Delhi. When the present England cricket team flew out of Perth on Thursday morning it was to a Christmas in Sydney, squeezed in between flights to a scorched one after a number of serious bush fires only a few miles from Sydney's city centre.

The week in Perth will be remembered for the disappointment of defeat, the fresh beauty of the place and that extraordinary tantrum of Dennis Lillee last Saturday morning.

The publicity which Lillee attracted to his aluminium bat has made the sales more than good. Although more people know of its existence now than ever did before,

it is also much more widely known that according to cricketers' new set of laws, recently re-drafted by MCC, a bat must be made of wood. In spite of "a search in Perth" I found only one shop with an aluminium bat in stock.

The rights for them are jointly held by Lillee, who lives in Perth, and a Perth businessman. Their company, Castlebar Pty Ltd, manufactures the bat, contracting the work out through its operating arm, Ondrive Manufacturing. More than £50,000 has been invested in the operation and more than one thousand bats have been sold. The aluminium comes in lengths of approximately 100in, which are cut into 3ft lengths. One end is clamped and welded, the other side at the other end are cut away to form the handle of the one-piece bat.

Their durability is an advantage. Those who have played with them, however, say that they "go" nothing like as well as an ordinary bat, partly of course because they have no spine.

An owner of a Perth sports store, a former state cricketer, told me that "it was like hitting a plum pudding with bells." In 1977-78, 255,000 willow bats or bats that were said to be of willow, were imported into Australia, 127,000 of them from India, 95,000 from Pakistan and 32,000 from England. Were



Lillee and his partner to corner even a small share of the market—they were shining at 10 per cent of it—they would be doing very nicely. But their hopes of this are fading fast.

Used 10, perhaps 15, years ago, England touring teams, then under the aegis of MCC, relied for a profit on a 30 per

cent share of what in Australia is called the outer game. This includes everyone except members and in some cases members' friends. Were this still the case there would be no way of making ends meet.

In Adelaide, for example, England have played seven days of cricket on this tour, watched by fewer than four thousand people paying less than £5,000. The running expenses of keeping a party of sixteen (16 players, a manager, and assistant manager and a physiotherapist) in Australia are roughly £500 a day. That excludes internal air fares, which come to £550 per man for the tour.

Breakfast for a young cricketer with a healthy appetite costs £3.50, dinner, without a drink, is seldom less than £5.50. This is what the players are given for dinner and when to dine. If they have dinner in their hotel they pay for it themselves, out of their allowance.

Rather than a share of the outer game England now receive a guaranteed sum from the Australian Cricket Board, out of which they meet their own expenses, to end from Australia and while they are there. This is the same for Australian teams in England.

The guarantee for the present side is in the region

of £275,000. Out of this, approximately £125,000 goes in salaries to the players and officials. Each player (except the captain who gets slightly more) receives a basic £6,500. The "tour managers" receive a salary (until last year they were unpaid) as of course, does the physiotherapist. Also to be found out of the guarantee are such sundry items as insurance (say £10,000), clothing, gratuities and laundry.

Then there are the option contracts, introduced within the last couple of years to discourage leading players from signing for private promoters. These are payable to anything up to 15 players, most of whom are in Australia. One who is not is Phil Edmunds, for each previous full tour to Australia, India, New Zealand, Pakistan, South Africa, and West Indies—a player receives £200. Between them Brearley and his side have made a thick profit. Between them, Brearley and his side have made a thick profit. Between them, Brearley and his side have made a thick profit.

If the sum total of the option contracts exceeds £20,000 and the costs of the tour come to something like £250,000 the amount to be divided between the counties is unlikely to give them much more than £1,000 each. The money is to be made these days by the home country, not least from TV fees, though the counties are going to have to improve in Australia this winter if the Australian board,

who also have a West Indian side to provide for, are to have a bumper harvest.

Next, rugby season: as they did this, Oxford should benefit from having a Rhodes scholar playing for them at Twickenham. Going up from New South Wales, is Philip Cross, by all accounts a young man of great quality. He has already played on the wing for Australia against France, Wales, Ireland and New Zealand, and he has toured the Argentine with an Australian team. He is, in my opinion, a very good cricketer and a useful athlete—quite one of the old school of Rhodes scholars, in fact.

T. M. E. Davis, this year's Oxford full-back, came from the University of Western Australia in Perth, where the new Rhodes scholar, like the old Rhodes scholar, is a girl. Davis is the last exception.

Fiona Pixley, this year's winner, was described in Perth as being the best of an unusually strong field. A medical student, her sport is water polo. She is said to be so good at so many things that "other girls groan at the mention of her name."

This sudden female invasion of Rhodes House is another of many reasons why Oxford sport is not what it used to be. The other day Richie Benard referred to the Sydney cricket ground as "the ball park". That, too, is a symptom of the times.

John Woodcock

Shaikh Yamani: to him a unified Opec is a benefit to the West.

Has Shaikh Yamani saved Opec and the West?

For the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries, Caracas has become something of a junk. It has met in the Venezuelan capital twice in the last two years and both times delegates have left without reaching agreement. The split this time is more serious than it was in 1977.

These delegates left agreeing to offer the unified price for oil which is a cardinal rule of the Opec constitution remained. After Caracas, 1978, there must be legitimate doubt both over whether Opec can survive and if it does whether it is of any use at all to the 13 countries which belong to it.

As it stands at the moment Opec members are free to charge what they like for oil, free to compete among themselves, to undercut or bid up prices in the market place. While every country denies selling anything but the smallest quantity on the spot market at least 15 per cent of Opec production is sold at other than official government selling prices.

Yet despite this, the clear split between the moderates led by Saudi Arabia and the hard-line pricing hawk led by Libya and Iran, it is very unlikely that Opec will break up. No one seeing the vintage performance of Shaikh Ahmed Zaki Yamani, the Saudi Arabian Oil Minister, at an international press conference immediately after the end of the meeting this week, could possibly believe that the end was anywhere in sight.

Shaikh Yamani no longer has the power within Opec that he once had. The events in Iran have taken that away. Saudi Arabia's production capacity is still the largest in the world but with Iran having cut its output nearly in half Shaikh Yamani has not been able to keep prices down by threatening to flood the market.

If he is right oil supplies will remain tight for the first quarter but as the huge stocks which have been built up, particularly by Japan, against a bad winter and continuing disorder in Iran are drawn down, and the effect of Saudi Arabia's higher, than normal output works through, a "mini-oil glut" will appear. The problem is that it is a terrible gamble. It is easy to misunderstand the role of the Saudis within Opec. It often seems as if the westerners, Shaikh Yamani's ally in the enemy's camp, a sort of official ambassador for the United States, who has the interest of the consuming nations at heart, and to a point it is true, but while Saudi Arabia's tactics may be seen as different from the Opec hawk's, its long-term policy is the same—to move the price of oil to a level where it becomes economic to produce alternative sources of energy. Iran and Arabia want to get there by yesterday, Shaikh Yamani wants to go gradually, putting as little strain as possible on the developed countries' economies, and preventing the sharp swings from glut to shortage that the past few years have produced.

To Shaikh Yamani, Opec is not a cartel, because it does not, as a unified organisation, introduce production cuts to drive up prices. Opec has always regarded decisions on

production levels, as within the sovereign power of the member states. Nevertheless, whether within the conference proper or in the many meetings which "wear out" in delegates' rooms, some countries in Caracas tried to raise the issue of coordinating cuts in output.

Shaikh Yamani will have none of it. Saudi Arabia will reduce production as demand falls. It will not deliberately create shortages. But it does not wish any more to increase sharply its production capacity for the benefit of over-consumption by the west. His position is therefore rather on a knife-edge. When predicting a small oil glut next year he was very careful to qualify his remarks. It would come, he said, "with hopefully no political interruption in any country to stop the flow of oil."

The words are deliberately ambiguous. The Iranian Oil Minister, Mr Ali Akbar Moftakhar, announced, before going to Caracas, he thought the most important decision of the conference would be on production cuts. Shaikh Yamani was polite, himself, about the Iranian Minister. "A straightforward man," he said, "expressing his views with the interest of Opec in his heart." But those views are not the views of Shaikh Yamani and from corridor talk at the conference it appeared that Mr Moftakhar had spent much of the meetings speaking about Islamic revolution.

However, Saudi Arabia appeared far less isolated in Caracas than it had done before the conference began. Shaikh Ahmed Khalifa al Sabah of Kuwait appeared as an ally, so did Venezuela's President, Carlos Andres Borge, and, surprisingly, Iraq which in the past had always been considered a pricing hawk.

The North Africans, however, Algeria and Libya, were no help at all in reaching a compromise solution. Shaikh Yamani's stance of enlightened self-interest, of not hitting the West too hard, because, in the crudest terms, the oil countries need the West to sell their oil and to bank their money, is only possible if the moderates can keep control. He said the task of getting through the growing energy shortages towards the end of the century as world oil reserves are dwindling as a "joint task with the industrial nations." To him unified Opec is a benefit to the West.

But the reality is that for reasons of internal economics or just plain greed, some of the Opec nations are only too happy to take as much short-term advantage of a shortage as possible. Shaikh Yamani's gamble is that its moderation as the producer of one third of Opec's output is valuable to the western economies, and that once there is a glut Opec will band together very quickly indeed to stop prices falling. If it does not the west is at the mercy of the hawks.

Opec began to take its power from the multi-national oil companies at the beginning of the 70s. At the end of the decade it is still learning how to use it.

Nicholas Hirst
Energy Correspondent



SPORT
Cricket

Australia bounce back as W Indies take success for granted

From John Woodcock
Cricket Correspondent
Sydney, Dec 21

Because they took it for granted that they would win, West Indies lost their World Series Cup match against Australia last night. Without bothering unduly to try to win, the West Indies won by seven runs, and the man of the match, on his return to their side, was Ian Chappell, who made 63 not out.

The result, rather than putting Australia more or less beyond recovery, leaves West Indies at the bottom of the one-day table with only one win (two points) from five matches and England three wins (six points) from three matches. On paper, therefore, England are strongly placed to reach the three-match final, but they still have to play West Indies three times.

If the West Indians react badly to tonight's defeat this could be to England's advantage. They are such a mercurial lot that they might do, but I doubt it. We shall know soon enough, with the two sides meeting in Brisbane on Sunday.

In winning tonight's match Australia bowled very well. The ball moved about a lot in the warm night air, but the first four West Indian batsmen, three were out trying to hit the cover off it. Even so, at 100 for two with Richards playing another bouncering innings, there was only one side in it. The over to give Australia their chance to end the last to be bowled by Dymock, the hero of Australia's recent victory over England.

Dymock had been preferred to Thomson in today's Australian side and it was his ability to move the ball, which Thomson seldom does, that disappointed Richards, having been beaten several times by



From a conspicuously clean-shaven Ian Chappell, a clean cut and a quick single.

match and the next, against England on Boxing Day, Ian Chappell has not been chosen for his next two five-day Test matches, against West Indies starting in Melbourne on December 29 and against England here in Sydney on January 5. To bring him into the Test party now might suggest that the selectors made a nonsense of it in the first place and he is not a batsman already chosen. Yet to leave him out, assuming the selectors have a true hand, would be equally indicative.

The answer could lie in the intensity of the programme. Before, over and after the new year, Australia has to play a Test cricket. That would be asking a lot of a 36-year-old former Aus-

tralian captain whose recent form for World Series cricket and South Australia has been fairly ordinary. What the selectors may decide

WEST INDIES

W. Dymock	11
A. Roberts	11
A. Gomes	11
A. Gomes	11
A. Gomes	11
A. Gomes	11
A. Gomes	11
A. Gomes	11
A. Gomes	11
A. Gomes	11
A. Gomes	11

Cope to correct flaws in action

The future is first-class cricket of Geoffrey Cope, the Yorkshire off-spin bowler, whose action caused him to leave the game temporarily both in 1972 and 1978, has been placed in doubt again.

After a further year in his action last August the East and County Cricket Board have notified Yorkshire that Cope's action is still considered to be faulty.

This has led to Yorkshire giving Cope a one year contract and instructing him to take all necessary steps before March to eradicate existing flaws in his action.

Gooch ready to replace injured Miller

Brisbane, Dec 21.—Graham Gooch, who was left out of the England side for the first Test against Australia, is likely to return for the one-day international against the West Indies here on Sunday.

Gooch may replace the all-rounder, Geoff Miller, who is still recovering from his strained back.

Miller carried the injury in the last Test against Australia, and Gooch is expected to replace him both when he is back and when he is back.

William Hill Hurdle

Four-year-old declarations: William Hill Hurdle, 1979, 1980, 1981, 1982, 1983, 1984, 1985, 1986, 1987, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, 2031, 2032, 2033, 2034, 2035, 2036, 2037, 2038, 2039, 2040, 2041, 2042, 2043, 2044, 2045, 2046, 2047, 2048, 2049, 2050, 2051, 2052, 2053, 2054, 2055, 2056, 2057, 2058, 2059, 2060, 2061, 2062, 2063, 2064, 2065, 2066, 2067, 2068, 2069, 2070, 2071, 2072, 2073, 2074, 2075, 2076, 2077, 2078, 2079, 2080, 2081, 2082, 2083, 2084, 2085, 2086, 2087, 2088, 2089, 2090, 2091, 2092, 2093, 2094, 2095, 2096, 2097, 2098, 2099, 2100, 2101, 2102, 2103, 2104, 2105, 2106, 2107, 2108, 2109, 2110, 2111, 2112, 2113, 2114, 2115, 2116, 2117, 2118, 2119, 2120, 2121, 2122, 2123, 2124, 2125, 2126, 2127, 2128, 2129, 2130, 2131, 2132, 2133, 2134, 2135, 2136, 2137, 2138, 2139, 2140, 2141, 2142, 2143, 2144, 2145, 2146, 2147, 2148, 2149, 2150, 2151, 2152, 2153, 2154, 2155, 2156, 2157, 2158, 2159, 2160, 2161, 2162, 2163, 2164, 2165, 2166, 2167, 2168, 2169, 2170, 2171, 2172, 2173, 2174, 2175, 2176, 2177, 2178, 2179, 2180, 2181, 2182, 2183, 2184, 2185, 2186, 2187, 2188, 2189, 2190, 2191, 2192, 2193, 2194, 2195, 2196, 2197, 2198, 2199, 2200, 2201, 2202, 2203, 2204, 2205, 2206, 2207, 2208, 2209, 2210, 2211, 2212, 2213, 2214, 2215, 2216, 2217, 2218, 2219, 2220, 2221, 2222, 2223, 2224, 2225, 2226, 2227, 2228, 2229, 2230, 2231, 2232, 2233, 2234, 2235, 2236, 2237, 2238, 2239, 2240, 2241, 2242, 2243, 2244, 2245, 2246, 2247, 2248, 2249, 2250, 2251, 2252, 2253, 2254, 2255, 2256, 2257, 2258, 2259, 2260, 2261, 2262, 2263, 2264, 2265, 2266, 2267, 2268, 2269, 2270, 2271, 2272, 2273, 2274, 2275, 2276, 2277, 2278, 2279, 2280, 2281, 2282, 2283, 2284, 2285, 2286, 2287, 2288, 2289, 2290, 2291, 2292, 2293, 2294, 2295, 2296, 2297, 2298, 2299, 2300, 2301, 2302, 2303, 2304, 2305, 2306, 2307, 2308, 2309, 2310, 2311, 2312, 2313, 2314, 2315, 2316, 2317, 2318, 2319, 2320, 2321, 2322, 2323, 2324, 2325, 2326, 2327, 2328, 2329, 2330, 2331, 2332, 2333, 2334, 2335, 2336, 2337, 2338, 2339, 2340, 2341, 2342, 2343, 2344, 2345, 2346, 2347, 2348, 2349, 2350, 2351, 2352, 2353, 2354, 2355, 2356, 2357, 2358, 2359, 2360, 2361, 2362, 2363, 2364, 2365, 2366, 2367, 2368, 2369, 2370, 2371, 2372, 2373, 2374, 2375, 2376, 2377, 2378, 2379, 2380, 2381, 2382, 2383, 2384, 2385, 2386, 2387, 2388, 2389, 2390, 2391, 2392, 2393, 2394, 2395, 2396, 2397, 2398, 2399, 2400, 2401, 2402, 2403, 2404, 2405, 2406, 2407, 2408, 2409, 2410, 2411, 2412, 2413, 2414, 2415, 2416, 2417, 2418, 2419, 2420, 2421, 2422, 2423, 2424, 2425, 2426, 2427, 2428, 2429, 2430, 2431, 2432, 2433, 2434, 2435, 2436, 2437, 2438, 2439, 2440, 2441, 2442, 2443, 2444, 2445, 2446, 2447, 2448, 2449, 2450, 2451, 2452, 2453, 2454, 2455, 2456, 2457, 2458, 2459, 2460, 2461, 2462, 2463, 2464, 2465, 2466, 2467, 2468, 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3631, 3632, 3633, 3634, 3635, 3636, 3637, 3638, 3639, 3640, 3641, 3642, 3643, 3644, 3645, 3646, 3647, 3648, 3649, 3650, 3651, 3652, 3653, 3654, 3655, 3656, 3657, 3658, 3659, 3660, 3661, 3662, 3663, 3664, 3665, 3666, 3667, 3668, 3669, 3670, 3671, 3672, 3673, 3674, 3675, 3676, 3677, 3678, 3679, 3680, 3681, 3682, 3683, 3684, 3685, 3686, 3687, 3688, 3689, 3690, 3691, 3692, 3693, 3694, 3695, 3696, 3697, 3698, 3699, 3700, 3701, 3702, 3703, 3704, 3705, 3706, 3707, 3708, 3709, 3710, 3711, 3712, 3713, 3714, 3715, 3716, 3717, 3718, 3719, 3720, 3721, 3722, 3723, 3724, 3725, 3726, 3727, 3728, 3729, 3730, 3731

THE TIMES

BUSINESS NEWS

National import surveillance licensing to end in new year

By Peter Hill
Industrial Editor

Import surveillance licensing is to be abolished from the beginning of next year but the government stressed last night that this would not undermine its ability to ensure orderly regulation of imports.

But the decision has prompted anxiety in the textile industry, which has been the main beneficiary of the surveillance licensing system. The industry has been in the textiles and clothing sector, although the arrangements have also covered machinery, TV sets and tubes, electronic calculators, footwear and some iron and steel products.

The British Textile Confederation, the umbrella organization of unions and employers, said: "The ending of surveillance licensing will obviously cause dismay. Although not the most critical part of the import surveillance system, it is nonetheless part of the total monitoring structure."

It is now absolutely necessary that the surveillance system should not be eroded further because strict and rapid monitoring of imports into this country is crucial to the management of the whole textile regime.

According to the Department of Trade the scheme required about 20 clerical workers, but the department was unable to say when the scheme would be abolished.

A spokesman emphasized that the abolition reflected the fact that better mechanisms now existed, including the EEC's bilateral agreements with almost all major low-cost textile supplying countries under the GATT Multi Fibre Arrangement.

The department said that actual imports of products which no longer needed licences would continue to be closely monitored; statistics for these were now available earlier than before.

Mr John Nott, Secretary of State for Trade, said: "National surveillance licensing involved a substantial burden on industry and Government; it was expensive in terms of manpower and time, and its impact on reducing imports was minimal. I am glad to see another costly piece of unnecessary bureaucracy disappear."

This year the Department of Trade has issued more than 200,000 import licences; half were issued for national surveillance licensing; the other half for other types of licences.

The department said: "They have not provided accurate information about actual levels of imports in the pipeline. Attempts have been made to establish a correlation between the issue of licences and the eventual output but this has not proved possible."

But the department noted that the EEC's bilateral agreements with textile supplying countries incorporated trigger points based solely on the actual level of imports for consideration of the imposition of quotas.

Ending the system will dispense the TUC which will see the move as posing a further threat to jobs in the textile and clothing industries which have been badly hit by cheap imports.

Hongkong bank bid for Gibbs

By Michael Priest

The Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation has opened discussions with Anthony Gibbs Holdings, the insurance, fund management and insurance group, about acquiring the 60 per cent of Gibbs it does not already own.

Both parties and their advisers say it is too early to give details about terms of possible offer. But Gibbs shares rose 2 1/2 to 7 1/2, at which price the group is valued at about £14m.

The move comes soon after the Hong Kong and Shanghai, which is domiciled in Hongkong, announced that one of its chief subsidiaries, the British Bank of the Middle East, is moving its headquarters from London to the Colony. Acquiring Gibbs, which is a member of the Accepting Houses Committee, the select inner circle of British merchant banks, would therefore be a way in which the Hong Kong and Shanghai could keep a wholly-owned subsidiary in the United Kingdom.

Over recent months the Hong Kong and Shanghai has also purchased several of Gibbs's peripheral assets. In September it paid £135,000 for Anthony Gibbs Ireland. Two months

later the Hong Kong and Shanghai forced Gibbs to sell its 25 per cent stake in Wirtschafsbank, a Zurich-based bank, because the Hong Kong and Shanghai was opening a branch in Zurich. Later in November, Anthony Gibbs sold its holding in Wardley Middle East to the Hong Kong and Shanghai. Wardley is a wholly-owned merchant bank subsidiary of the Hong Kong and Shanghai.

Since the 40 per cent stake in Gibbs was acquired in 1974, the Hong Kong and Shanghai has seen the value of its share roughly halve. Disclosed after-tax profits at Gibbs attributable to shareholders fell from £521,000 in 1976 to £407,000 in 1978. Assets in 1978 were £125m, only slightly more than in the previous year.

For several years the bulk of Anthony Gibbs's profits have come from associated companies. Last year, for example, associated companies contributed £282,000. In June Gibbs arranged a loan for a Saudi Arabian company in conjunction with the Saudi British Bank, which is 40 per cent owned by the British Bank of the Middle East.

Anthony Gibbs is obviously attractive as an Accepting House, though the Bank of England approval would be required for a full

takeover. Among other things it would allow a foreign-based bank such as the Hongkong and Shanghai to take full advantage of the Export Credit business. Gibbs also has interests in unit trusts, fund management and timber in Australia.

But a Hongkong and Shanghai spokesman last night refused to comment on a possible bid. He said the company was possible bid complication concerning Gibbs's important insurance subsidiaries, which include Lloyd's brokers Anthony Gibbs Sage.

Under Lloyd's rules foreign groups are generally banned from owning more than 20 per cent of a group bringing business to the exchange, although in the case of Hongkong and Shanghai the holding is already 40 per cent. Despite its strong British links, Hongkong and Shanghai is domiciled overseas and Lloyd's may be forced to stand firm on the rules covering foreign ownership.

If not Lloyd's could be considerably embarrassed by its discussions with American brokers which are currently pressing for a stronger foothold in the market via links with British firms. Following precedents Hongkong and Shanghai might thus be forced to sell on at least 75 per cent of the Gibbs's broking interests.

Christmas sales 'dismay' retailers

By Derek Harris
Commercial Editor

Retailers, dismayed by the late mid-December start to Christmas buying, are reporting a last minute rush to the shops, but are far from euphoric about the sales output in real terms. There are also increasing fears about the amount of stocks built-up in the pipeline in both women's and men's wear.

Specialist shops relying largely on clothing have already had sales signs up for some weeks, and are making extensive reductions in an attempt to move heavy stocks that are now costing more to cover by bank loans.

At John Lewis's 18 stores, fashion sales showed a 0.2 per cent decrease in the past week in November and recovered the following week only to a 0.5 per cent increase. This compared with an overall sales increase of 16.5 per cent in the first week in December.

This figure showed a little change on an 18 weeks figure of 16.3 per cent, reflecting the lag in the start of Christmas sales early in December. Fashion sales in the 18 week period ended December 15 showed only an 11 per cent rise.

Although fashion sales figures look like showing further improvements in the past week, they are likely to remain among the poorer performers.

Part of the problem is that a mild autumn has held off the normal buying of winter clothing. If bitter weather sets in, retailers may be redressed to some extent, although retailers are now moving into the January sales period with reduced margins.

But there is evidence that women have been buying fewer clothes, apart from the effects of an earlier summer on sales of lighter wear.

Constraints because of less money have coincided with a period in which extreme fashion changes seem to have been ignored, with taste favouring coordinates on which changes can be made more readily and thus more cheaply.

There must be a question mark over manufacturers who may not only have excessive stock on their hands, but may get little help from retailers wary of heavy future buying because of an expected downturn in retail sales in the early part of next year.

US imposes strict aid terms on Chrysler

From Frank Vogl
Washington, Dec 21

President Carter will sign legislation soon to give Chrysler Corporation, the tenth largest manufacturer in the United States, sufficient funds to avoid bankruptcy.

The test for the company now is how wisely it can use the \$550m (about £1,598m) that it will receive in assorted forms, including \$150m of government-guaranteed loans, Chrysler plan swiftly to change its model range, launch a new, fuel-efficient, medium-sized car within 10 months and institute a variety of organizational actions aimed at making it a somewhat smaller and decidedly more efficient company.

Last night, the United States Senate voted 43 to 34 in favour of the "Chrysler Corporation Loan Guarantee Act of 1979" and the House of Representatives passed the bill by a vote of 241 to 124.

The law stipulates that an array of conditions must be fulfilled before the government can go ahead and guarantee the \$150m of loans. First, Chrysler's workers, who are members of the United Auto Workers Union, must accept a \$462.5m cut in planned wages increases that amount to over the next 33 months. Then Chrysler's non-union employees must accept a cut of \$125m in their earnings.

To make such income reductions more attractive, the politicians stipulated in the new law that Chrysler should issue \$162.5m worth of shares to its workers.

Also, the government-supported loans will only be granted once the banks have agreed to lend Chrysler about \$650m, after state and local governments have agreed to give the company \$250m and after Chrysler's dealers and suppliers have put up a further \$180m.

Eurocanadian shares switch is rejected

By Peter Wainwright

Eurocanadian Shipholdings, the private Canadian-owned shipping group based in Switzerland and Bermuda, has been told that its scheme to transfer an 18.4 per cent shareholding in Furness Withy, the shipping group, to three ECS shareholders has not won official approval.

Mr Sally Oppenheim, Minister of State for Consumer Affairs, is preparing an order to ensure that the voting rights of these shareholders cannot be used to secure boardroom representation in Furness Withy.

The Eurocanadian scheme was designed to satisfy an undertaking, given in 1976, that it would lower its holding in Furness Withy to no more than 10 per cent in a reasonable time.

The assurance was prompted by a Monopolies Commission recommendation that a merger between Eurocanadian and Furness would be against the public interest.

Yesterday Mrs Oppenheim said that her move was prompted by information she had received on November 16 from Eurocanadian: the total shareholding in Furness was being reduced to the three ECS shareholders, Helix Investments, and Canadian National Railways. She added that the Director General of Fair Trading had concluded that the transfer of

shares did not bring the merger between ECS and Furness Withy to an end. He did not consider that the intention of the undertaking had been fulfilled. Mrs Oppenheim agreed with him.

Under the proposed divestment, Dolphin Investments was to have received 11.2 per cent of the Furness equity. Dolphin is controlled by Mr Frank Narby, Eurocanadian's chief executive, and his family interests.

Helix Investments or its Bermuda affiliate was to get 3.9 per cent. Helix is a company controlled by Mr D. Webster and his family. Mr Webster is a director of Eurocanadian Shipholdings.

Canadian National Railways is its pension fund were to acquire 3.3 per cent of Furness; Canadian National owns 18 per cent of Eurocanadian.

Mr Narby announced that he planned to resign as chairman of executive of Eurocanadian from January 1, and live in England again.

Mr Frank Narby, commenting on Mrs Oppenheim's decision said: "The management of Eurocanadian will be studying the implications of the Secretary of State's decision. I shall be studying the decision for the possible effect on Dolphin and would expect to have fully digested the implications by the time I start my new activities in London early in January."

New freeze on Iran's Krupp stake

Citibank, of the United States, has become the second big American bank to obtain a court freeze on Iran's holding in Fried Krupp, the parent of the German industrial conglomerate.

In Paris, the French central bank said yesterday that it intends to take further action to secure the release of its \$50m held by the Paris subsidiary of Citibank.

Citibank's claim against Iran was given as \$91m by a Krupp spokesman.

M. Francois Charon, the lawyer acting for the Iranian state bank, said he would see the president of the Court of Appeal next week as a first step. Earlier in the day the Paris Civil Court said it was unable to make a summary ruling on the Iranian state bank's request for immediate release of the fund.

The three-member court said the dispute would have to be dealt with under normal court procedure, which, legal sources said, could take months or even years.

Prior to Citibank's obtaining an attachment order from the local Essen court of Iranian assets in Krupp Morgan Guaranty Trust Company obtained two attachments—one over a claim of \$40m and another claim of over \$26m against Iran.

Meanwhile, Herr Peter Heinemann, an Essen lawyer, said that he, on behalf of the Iranian Government, had filed formal appeals not only against Citibank's attachment but also against the other two.

Meanwhile the Paris Commercial Tribunal yesterday confirmed a ruling it made on October 24 authorizing the French-based uranium enrichment group, to freeze certain Iranian claims on the French Atomic Energy Agency and the French State.

Japan optimistic

Mr Hiroshi Ikawa, managing director of the co-ordination bureau at the Economic Planning Agency, told the press in Tokyo that Japan's forecasts were generally far better than those for other nations in the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development.

UK output falls

Britain's output fell by 2 per cent in the third quarter of this year, according to revised figures produced by the Central Statistical Office. The figures confirm earlier provisional estimates and are distorted by the impact of strikes.



M&G's new chiefs meeting yesterday, left to right, Mr David Hopkinson, managing director and joint deputy chairman, Mr Andrew Caldecott, chairman and Mr John Fairbairn, joint deputy chairman.

Kleinwort £5m backing for M & G

Continued from page 1

per cent as well as capital gains tax. M & G admits this is a possibility.

What is unclear at the moment is whether this tough line taken by the Inland Revenue is part of its general clampdown on tax avoidance; or whether, in the past, the Inland Revenue has genuinely made a mistake in its own interpretation of section 315 of the 1970 Income and Corporation Tax Act.

This defines a foreign life assurance fund as "a fund which deals with life assurance business where the policyholders are resident outside the United Kingdom, and where the business is done through a branch or agency outside the United Kingdom."

However, because of what appears to be a defect in the drafting of the assurance policy, there seems little doubt that M & G is in the wrong. Its legal advisers, Linklater and Paine, and new auditors Spicer and Pegler have both argued that M & G has little chance of winning a fight with the Inland Revenue.

M & G is now negotiating with the Inland Revenue as to the nature and extent of the liability. At this worst, the amount could be £7m, but M & G hopes that the final sum payable may be no more than about £2m.

It has transferred £2m from group reserves to the life fund. It could have found the remaining £5m itself from the same source, but this would have meant repaying 51 per cent of M & G's equity.

The other substantial shareholder in M & G, which until 1976 was known as White Drummond, is the Remise Fairbank Charitable Trust, which also owns approximately 37 per cent of the issued share capital. This trust, set up by M & G's founder Mr Ian Fairbairn, is for the "furtherance

of knowledge in the field of finance and investment." It has endowed several chairs of investment and has been particularly involved with the London Business School.

The biggest worry facing M & G now is the reaction of its 168,000 unit-holders and its policyholders to the news that their company, formed in 1931 and noted as an arbiter of the industry's morals, has become involved in a second-hand, in a tax avoidance case.

Both the Inland Revenue and the police have confirmed that there is no suspicion of fraud involved. However, within the City there is a widespread feeling that M & G should have been well aware of how its re-assurance contracts could be used. The four companies involved placed re-assurance business with M & G were Bermuda Fire and Marine, European Life and Pensions (Isle of Man), European Life and Pensions (Channel Islands) and Life Association of Guernsey.

The shares were suspended at 178p and reintroduced at 130p to finish the day at 135p.

Personal Finance and Investment, page 18

American inflation at 12.9pc

From Our United States Economics Correspondent

Consumer prices in America rose by another 1 per cent in November, taking the annual rate of inflation to 12.9 per cent, according to the bureau of Labour Statistics.

Government officials expect worse inflation news in coming months.

But against this gloomy background there was some cheerful economic news. The Department of Commerce reported the current account balance of payments had moved into a \$762m (£348m) surplus in the third quarter, after a second quarter deficit of \$1,060m (about £484m).

Officials admit they are worried about inflation. High interest rates are tending to boost housing prices sharply and last month's price for new houses rose 1.3 per cent.

Mr Charles Duncan, the energy secretary, said that latest oil decisions might raise domestic petrol prices by 8 per cent soon. He described the decision by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries in Caracas this week as a "threat to our national security and economic well-being."

The statistics bureau also reported that real disposable earnings fell by 6.3 per cent last month, taking the decline for the last 12 months to 5.1 per cent. America's consumer price index now stands at 227.5 (1967 index 100).

Support for NEB stand against state control

By Our Industrial Editor

Further discussions between Sir Arthur Knight, chairman of the National Enterprise Board and Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Industry, are expected to discuss the board's worries on the extent of government control over its activities envisaged in the draft guidelines for the NEB.

The extent to which the Government will issue directions on the level and size of disposals to be implemented by the NEB is another source of concern.

The new board will also want clarification of its relationship with BL, although Sir Keith indicated in his announcement on the BL corporate plan earlier this week, that responsibility for monitoring the motor group would remain with the NEB for the moment.

Sir Keith said he believed that BL might now reconsider its request to be moved directly under the wing of the Department of Industry in view of the "new faces" on the new NEB board.

BL made its request after the Government agreed to take over responsibility for Rolls-Royce and prompted the mass resignation of the previous NEB board.

Yesterday the board was due to consider the provision of further aid of up to £25m for its INMOS subsidiary to design and make micro-processors and other advanced microcircuits, but last night the NEB would not say what decisions had been taken.

Sir Keith, who yesterday appointed Mr Ian Halliday a member of the board from February, said his new deputy by the NEB as its new chief executive 10 days ago, came under criticism from one of his own backbenchers.

In a letter to Sir Keith, Mr Michael Grylls, vice-chairman of the Tory industry committee, said that he had been "astonished" to learn that the NEB had spent about £220m since the Government was elected.

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The Stockholders Investment Trust Limited

Managers—JOHN GOVETT & Co. LIMITED

FIVE-YEAR SUMMARY OF CONSOLIDATED RESULTS

Year ended 31st October	Earnings	Dividend	Asset Value
1975	1.83	1.45	91.5
1976	1.73	1.63	91.9
1977	2.19	2.05	122.5
1978	2.74	2.35	127.6
1979	3.44	3.00	128.0

Total net resources £60,188,365

U.K. 62%; North America 28%; Elsewhere 10%.

Points from the Chairman's Statement

—Total earnings per share increased from 2.74p to 4.24p including 0.8p representing special dividends paid on the relaxation of dividend controls. The board recommends dividends totalling 3.0p plus a special dividend of the 0.8p extra earnings.

—The policy of raising the overseas content of the portfolio to a proportion nearer one-half of the total is to be continued. The rapid rate of dividend growth is likely to slow down as a consequence.

—Both in this country and elsewhere there are innovative and successful companies whose growth records far exceed the inflation rate. It is in these that the majority of the Trust's investments will be made.

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Gilt 65.46 up 0.15

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1980s.

undancies

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unt that Homfray
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and shutting three
Bailley. Another 130
were told they will lose
in the spring. The
blamed a pre-tax loss
lm.

PRICE CHANGES

H'shire 15p to 470p
old.
10c to 265c
22p to 71p
m-A 10p to 695p
14p to 91p

Messina Trans 8p to 132p
Presty 8p to 107p
Messina Cons 10c to 610c
Wood & Sons 2p to 30p

McNerry Prop 2p to 22p
Montfort (Kalt) 5p to 75p
Oil Exploration 10p to 650p
South Africa Rd 1.75
Zambia Copper 5p to 40p

THE POUND

	Bank	Bank	Bank	Bank
	buys	sells	buys	sells
S	2.05	1.57	Norway Kr	11.40
U	29.00	27.00	Portugal Esc	112.00
U	88.50	63.00	South Africa Rd	1.75
	5.64	5.57	Spain Pta	151.00
Kr	12.23	11.73	Sweden Kr	9.53
Alt	5.52	5.12	Switzerland Fr	3.71
	9.23	8.83	USA \$	2.28
	4.08	3.78	Yugoslavia Ddr	45.00
3m	95.00	95.00		
S	11.15	10.55		
	1825.00	1750.00		
	549.00	524.00		
ds	4.41	4.18		

Notes for bank conversion: bank
notes only, as supplied yesterday;
differences, rates apply to travellers;
discounts and other foreign currency
business.

New Opec prices after Caracas talks

The following is a list of prices to be charged by members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries following their meeting in Caracas. Prices shown are for standard grade of crude oil with oil prices in brackets.

Saudi Arabia	24.42	(19)
Iraq	22.18	(11)
Iran	22.50	(20.50)
Kuwait	21.43	(17)
United Arab Emirates	27.56	(21.56)
Yemen	25.27	(1)
Qatar	30.00	(26.27)
Oman	30.00	(26.27)
Somalia	26.50	(24.50)
Madagascar	34.00	(20)
Chad	23.41	(17)
Libya	22.00	(1)
Algeria	27.42	(21.42)

EDITED BY MARGARET STONE

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

ire on their faces
ver a tin mine

ation at Sticklepath, a County Down spot, is of Allied Elderberry, a rare, native plant. As an indication, and of this unfolding financial folk, there is an extract from the evidence between Lt Col Gros-Berington (sage) and Reginald (crypto-fascist) boot-d imperialist lackey).

Gros-Berington, not heard from you, little matter of the granted by the Dartling Society to your assistant, Miss Gloria, and your head, Mr Uriah Storr. I hope that you and the aforementioned are all with the circumstances.

For our own part, it is indeed grateful post of £200,000 made by the Pension Fund as his annual advancement.

n now to the other advantageous arrangement to in my last would inform you that, his death at the turn of the century, the then Sir Skerville, Lord of the Great Grimpen, was a village of Sicklepath, a recreation area and serve in perpetuity.

ng to what I have in strict confidence regus MacOgle (whom I met in his capacity of Chief of the Combined Cadet which I am, as it would be Adjutant, by local mining cons-Ole de Fame (of is, of course, the urator) has revealed mud comprising the mpen Mire is extra-rich in tin ore, an

announcement to the effect of which is due to be made publicly within the next fortnight. It would be a pity, would it not, if this situation were allowed to develop in an, as you might say, uncontrolled manner. I therefore wondered if you and I with our many contacts in the worlds of commerce, industry, and high society might get together to see how best to proceed in this instance.

If, for example, it were possible for the village of Sicklepath to be persuaded by dispassionate advice to sell the tin mine or a part interest thereof to willing buyers, then the resultant cash arising could perhaps be deployed to everybody's advantage, not to say bonanza. In respect of which, it is the constant concern of the Dartling Society that sufficient monies should not put too fine a point on it) flow from the whole locality into its ample machinery in order to be re-channelled forth again to meet the all-pervading and legitimate demands for suitable local home ownership from the surrounding populace—I need not add, an aim with which I am, certain you are very much in concert. In short, I feel confident that our mutual fortunes are not far removed from one another, in a manner of speaking.

Yours sincerely,
Reginald Pluckitt.

My Dear Reginald,
I am most grateful for your letter which I read with profound interest. I have spoken to my friend Lord Trite, Chairman of the Great Rockall and Hongkong Consolidated Trust, which purely by chance has a subsidiary by the name of the Great Rockall and Hongkong Mining Corporation, chaired by Sammy de Fame, junior partner of local mining consultants, MacOgle de Fame, who has arranged with them that Great Rockall should bid for the

Great Grimpen Mire on a basis marginally different from the valuation undertaken by MacOgle de Fame, namely representing about 47 per cent thereof.

This will need to be ratified at a meeting of the parish council which, however, should present little problem—Elizabeth Baskerville herself being in the chair. I would have advised her personally of our plans, but must leave this to you to do, as Miss Darling-Friend and I are called away for the weekend on urgent business in Granada where we will be buying the company's supplies of corks for the coming year.

See you on Tuesday.
Yours ever,
Rudolph.

My dear Rudolph,
I duly informed Lady Baskerville of our full intention and she appeared surprised by the whole affair. For some reason which escapes me, she appeared somewhat put out, to boot.

Yours ever,
Reginald Pluckitt.

Dear Pluckitt:
A brief note in my own hand to advise you that you are a complete underdog.

You won't the wrong Lady Baskerville! Instead of talking to Elizabeth, Lady Baskerville, Sir Henry's mother, you spoke to Lady (Elizabeth) Baskerville, his wife. The two have not been on speaking terms for years.

Elizabeth, Lady Baskerville, is known as "Elizabeth" and Lady (Elizabeth) Baskerville is known as "Brackets". For heaven's sake, I thought everybody knew that. Now that "Brackets" Baskerville is in the picture, no mistake is in the fire and no mistake.

Yours sincerely,
Reginald Gros-Berington.

Don't miss the next thrilling instalment in a fortnight's time.

Francis Kinsman

es song for the year-end

ve crossed my palm with silver
w pence, bright and shining—
you of the future,
v how you may prosper,
e upon your spending:
e for you to ponder.

ly forth this morning,
re your Christmas shopping
turkey, find the holy,
with more socks for grandpa—
cheque book at the ready
ink 'uns, fluttering freely—
vel temptation seize you,
ngers in your wallet,
siper sweet seduction:
t that be nice for Christmas!
ette recorder
n television
e (such a saver!)
e but one injunction
t that whisper working—
ll out of temptation—
dress the house instead.

for reasons moral,
e as much as can be
kept until The Sales-
me—I prophesy it—
e wonders knocked down cheap,
ill hail I see them—
sons for this outcome:

icts of economics
sons: one, two, three,
our fickle weather
all the way through summer:
s with lengthening legs
their customers turn, shimmer-
rals of singing colours

And resigned themselves to losses
In the hopes of icy autumn.
But when autumn came—oh horror!
Babny days lasted for ever!

It's a test of the business:
—Costs unsold by Christmas stay so.
Goods unsold mean cash untaken.
Where's the whereabout for rental?
Where's the cash to pay the taxman?
All this makes a strong inducement
For a sale at any price.
All the stronger when the outlook
Is for dire and deep recession.
Thin the spending in the future
Thin the prospects for the trade!
No one will sit tight this winter.
They'll sell now, or they'll sell never.

One more thought for your reflection
As you contemplate a spree:
Hard times will not stop most prices
From a rise as costs move upwards
Ever upwards, through the roof.
Anything that's made in Britain
With a lot of labour in it
Anything made from synthetics
Petrol-based, will shoot sky-high.

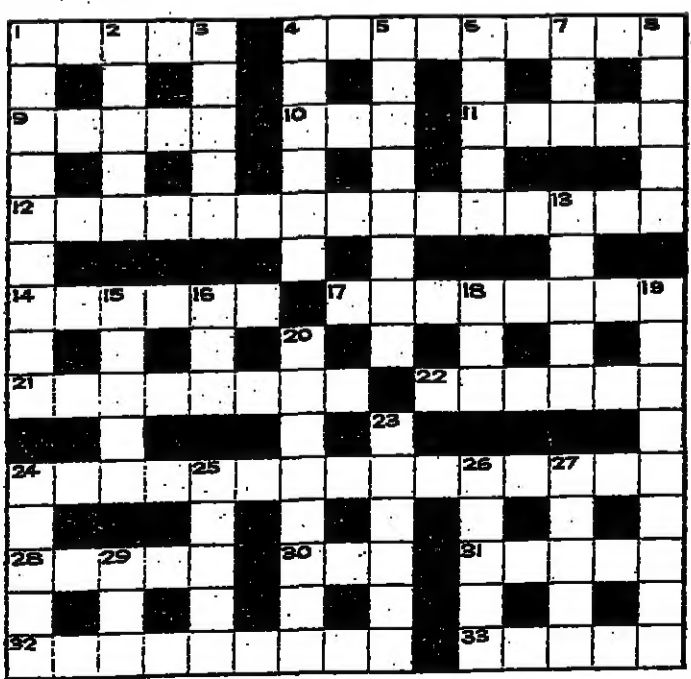
So my advice for 1980
—At least the opening days thereof—
Is, buy now what you would want later:
Boots and coats and classic clothes.
Linen, carpets, household goods.
They will prove a sound investment
Sound investments come too rarely.
See you make the best of this one.

Adrienne Gleeson

investor's crossword

imp of the printing-house, has
k to work with the rest of The
aff. After glancing through this
business Crossword he snorted and
ompiler that it was much too easy.
got to work and the results of his
re. I am afraid, all too apparent,
half the across clues and half the
es now contain a misprint of just
each in the "definition" part of
so a clue which started as "I
men" might appear now as "I
men".

Thankful for small mercies: Ralph



5. What makes PAYE real?
1984, for example (4, 4)
6. I'd been put back in an en-
gineering union—farewell to the
trench (5)
7. Scallywag is meaning to lose
just a little bit (3)
8. Cat story book about cor-
porate leader's distinction (5)
13. Bands lead to sin, we hear,
on Sunday (5)
15. What may set the workers
free is warming for us all (5)
16. Geologically, a drowned
valley is the opposite of a light
green (3)
18. His own efforts initially pro-
duced a fool in the garden (3)

19. Antheimistics seem strange to
put into language (9)
20. To cheat about a silver
gramme is often a profitable
operation (8)
23. Former Oriental politician,
true leader, is a special sort of
City header (6)
24. Worthless pound? Not to
shareholders in this dynamic
firm (5)
25. I trade in shares of boiler
company? Exactly right (5)
26. Systematically, morale can
be found in someone thick (5)
27. Earth and arsenic are
needed for alkalis (5)
29. My goal is to muzzle be-
fore decapitation (3)

Stock markets

Gilts firm but equities drift

The Stock Market continued its wind down before the Christmas holidays with a rather subdued performance on which to finish its second half of the three week account.

Gilts gave a firm appearance but equities tended to drift following the surprise announcement from M & G Group Holdings of a £7m tax deficiency.

Activity, however, remained generally low with business there was being completed by mid-morning leaving dealers

Cash-and-carry group Nurdin & Peacock reporting soon, looks to have done much better than expected in the High Street food war. Analysts are now busy upgrading estimates. The shares yesterday remained firm at 105p.

The remainder of the day to close the Christmas festivities that were underway.

Talk of a drop in the minimum lending rate gave a welcome fillip to gilt edged but the bid for the new 2p premium. Only Trafalgar House could buck the trend rising 1p to 61½p following the chairman's bullish statement at the AGM.

Among companies reporting Caledonian Associated Cinemas jumped 38p to 81½p on the back of its hoist in the dividend but Celestion fell 3p to 18½p and Banks Gowerston shed 2p to 39p after their respective trading statements.

On the bid front a surprise bid for Anthony Gibbs from HongKong Bank, after hours, sent the shares leaping 22p to 71p. Montfort (Knitting) dipped 5p to 76p and Bunnell 4p to 116p, allowed its bid to lapse.

Latest results

Company	Sales	Profits	Earnings	Div	Pay	Year's
Int or Fin	£m	£m	per share	pence	date	total
Amalgamated Indus (I)	7.4(4.2)	0.7(0.8)	10.28p(13.8p)	1.3(1.1)	21/2	—
Batter's of Yorks (I)	40.6(28.3)	0.4(0.2)	—(1.57p)	—	—	—
Celestion Indus (I)	14.9(14.3)	0.1(0.3)	—(1.57p)	—	—	—
Dennis Gryn (I)	12.7(11.3)	0.65(0.4)	0.6(0.55)	0.7(0.7)	—	(3.1)
Granada Grp (P)	27.7(25.0)	39.0(24.8)	15.3(20.4)	2.4(1.48)	7/4	3.8(—)
Home Brewery (P)	27.9(25.4)	4.8(3.9)	3.0(3.4)	4.8p	—	5.5
Horn Grp (P)	39.4(40)	1.02(1.04)	0.56(0.24)	1.3(1.25)	2/4	11.3(125)
Polperro (P)	0.3(0.5)	0.04(0.05)	0.5(0.03)	—	—	—
Stadia Hldgs (I)	1.3(1.2)	0.2(0.1)	0.2(0.1)	—(1.16p)	—	—
Starchite Spkms (I)	4.3	0.2(0.1)	0.2(0.1)	—	—	—

Dividends in this table are shown net of tax on pence per share. Elsewhere in Business News dividends are shown net of tax to establish gross multiply the net dividend by 1.43. Profits are shown pre-tax and earnings are net, a loss.

Homfray losses exceed £1m

Homfray, the Yorkshire-based carpet manufacturer, fulfilled market expectations by slumping into loss by the year end after a disappointing first half.

Pre-tax losses amounted to £1.08m compared with profits of £1.04m in the year ending September 29, 1979, while turnover slipped slightly to £39.4m from £40m.

The European carpets division, which includes the United Kingdom, saw a small increase in sales but United Kingdom carpets turnover slipped from £2.5m to £1m. The European carpets losses amounted to £1.4m compared with £474,000 profit last year although United Kingdom textiles turned back into profit from losses of £53,000 to £70,000.

Chairman, Mr Denis Gillam repeated his explanations made at the interim stage that poor United Kingdom carpet demand coupled with substantial overcapacity in the industry and loss of the traditional export market were responsible for the downturn.

"This loss can be directly attributed to the high level of sterling and the artificial low price of nylon in the United States."

The group has decided to cut its direct labour costs by half which represents a £2.5m saving. All activities at Sowerby Bridge have been closed as well as three other plants at Batley. Redundancy costs amount to £1.5m. But capital expenditure and capital commitments amounted to more than £2m and the investment is intended to improve competitiveness in the volume market. Mr Gillam said: "The conditions will continue to be difficult and there will be a trading loss in the first six months of the current year." But the group should then return to profit, he added.

As a result the board is recommending a small dividend payment of 33p gross from reserves, compared with 4.8p last year. The interim dividend was passed.

Setback at Danks Gowerston with more to come

A first-half down turn at steel processor Danks Gowerston is unlikely to be made up in the second half and the directors warn that last year's profit total of £1.1m will not be equalled.

In the six months to September 30, 1979, pre-tax profit amounted to £25,400, against a previous £409,000 turnover of £1.5m higher at £12.7m. The engineering division was pushed into the red by the national dispute while the steel division increased its sales.

In the second half, however, the position is likely to be worsened with the steel side suffering some disruption and the engineering division likely to recover enough to make a small profit for the year as a whole.

Stephen Komlosy & Mr Tom Malcolm. Following yesterday's Exchange General Meeting, Mr M. Ballantine resigned as chairman and managing director and Mr Komlosy was appointed managing director. Mr Abbott chairman and Mr Malcolm joined the Board.

Celestion Inds setback
Last year's £455,000 profit has been turned into a £141,000 pre-tax loss during the half year to September 30 for the loudspeaker and clothing group Celestion Industries. Turnover in the half was in line with the same period last year at £14.96m against £14.89m.

Celestion's loudspeaker division was hit by poor consumer demand, a strong pound and high inflation which resulted in a loss to be overhauled in the second half. On the clothing side actual profits fell short of target because of a four month industrial dispute.

Better going at Sturla Holdings
Sturla Holdings marginally increased turnover during the six months ended July 31, 1979 from £1.18m to £1.3m and produced a pre-tax profit of £46,000 against £5,000 last time. The company's preference shares are in arrears from June 1 1976 and the board states these will be brought up to date as soon as practical and the position will be reviewed in light of the full year's results.

A group of Merseyside businessmen, headed by Mr Stuart Callaway has agreed to buy Sturla's Sturt Finances subsidiary which specializes in personal lending in the North

West. The consortium is to pay £200,000 for the shares of Sturdy.

Austrian talks by Bunnell Pulp & Paper
Negotiations are being held between Bunnell Pulp & Paper and an Austrian group for the sale of BPP's 99.5 per cent shareholding in Bunnell & Bunnell AG, Vienna. The board says that discussions are progressing satisfactorily and that a decision is expected during the first quarter of 1980.

Also separate discussions are being held between Bunnell & Bunnell AG and another Austrian Watters paper mill.

Home Brewery climbs 23pc
Sales of Home Brewery continued to increase over the 12 months to September 30, 1979 with turnover up from £25.38m to £27.99m. Pre-tax profit over the period was £4.76m against £3.87m.

The board reports that during the year a feasibility study has been completed on the future development of the company's brewery at Daybrook and the managers at Bunnell & Bunnell AG, Vienna, have recommended that it be shortly available for consideration by the directors.

Losses mounting at Wharf Mill
Losses continue to accumulate for the furniture group Wharf: Mill Furnishers as it moved deeper into the red during the half year to September 30, 1979. A £153,000 trading loss has been reported compared with a £41,500 shortfall last time. Turnover during the

period was down to £1.706m against £1.9m.

The group has undertaken a major reorganization which necessitated the closure of major branches. These will reopen on December 28 trading under the name of "Challenge". Some of Wharf's smaller branches have been closed and the board has decided to alter the group's financial year end to December 27.

Argus Press pays £4m for magazine
Argus Press is to pay £3.8m cash for Slimming Magazine. The purchase will be financed by bank borrowing.

In the year to March 31, 1979, the company made a pre-tax profit of £357,000 and net assets amounted to £803,000.

Slimming Magazine, which distributes a bi-monthly publication, also operates a network of slimming clubs, and a health hydro at Ragdale Hall, Leicestershire.

Kwik-Fit to expand in Europe
Kwik-Fit's proposed £10.1m acquisition of Euro Exhaust Centres Holdings, announced two months ago, will enable the enlarged group to expand in Europe and the United Kingdom. Kwik-Fit chairman Mr Alex Benson said in a letter to shareholders yesterday.

Euro, which has 75 retail depots in the United Kingdom, with three in Belgium and eight in the Netherlands, is opening a further eight outlets. Euro is based in the south and Midlands and its geographical coverage is complementary to Kwik-Fit's.

ALLIED PLANT
Final purchase instalments have been paid by Allied Plant for its acquisition of San Spruit and Westcott Development and A. E. Jenkinson earlier this year. These instalments were £525,000 and £60,000 respectively.

BRUNNER INV
Income for the Brunner Investment Trust moved ahead from £1.28m to £1.5m in the year ended November 30, 1979. Net earnings for ordinary shares came out at £816,000 against £660,000. The management is proposing a one for one free scrip issue.

BATLEYS
Buddersfield-based cash and carry wholesaler Batleys of Yorkshire saw turnover in the half year October 27, 1979, soar from £28.35m to £40.65m. Net profits moved ahead to £395,000 against £234,000.

ELECTRIC & GEN INVESTMENT
Interim dividend 1.21p gross (against 1.19p, including special payment). Board forecast that there will be at least maintained at £3.50p. Earnings for half-year to Nov 30, £313,000 (£227,000). EPS 1.75p (1.26p).

LONDON & ASSOC INV
London and Associated Investment Trust made a 33p pre-tax profit for the six months to June 30, 1979, against a profit last time of £42,000.

Dunbee US deal

By Alison Mitchell
Toy group Dunbee-Combox-Marx has taken a further step towards recovery with the sale of the last of its United States manufacturing interests.

The group, which makes Cindy dolls and Scalextric, has announced that it has an initial agreement with United States toy company Leisure Dynamics Inc. The news comes the day after Dunbee's agreement to sell part of the Marx product lines and assets to Empire of Carolina.

If the sale goes ahead Leisure will take over the United States sale and distribution of Dunbee's Aurora line. Minimum payments will amount to \$1m annually—linked to the rate of inflation in America—or a higher sum based on the actual turnover achieved in 1979 sales of Aurora products amounted to \$40m and the royalty would have amounted to \$2m.

Leisure will also buy the Aurora stock at book value, but will have the use of Dunbee's American moulds for free. As a result of the agreement Dunbee will be able to sell the Aurora factories and assets in America and this ought to contribute to the 1980 balance sheet.

Production of Aurora cars and trains, for Leisure, will be carried out in the Dunbee factories in Singapore and Hongkong.

Dunbee's losses in America cost the group some £4.25m last year and in the six months to June 30, 1979 the group had first half losses totalling just over £5m. Although the United States sales are unlikely to affect profits in the year to December 31, 1979—though any final agreements are expected to be backed to the date of this week's letters of intent—next year's profits will not have to bear the weight of the American losses. The close down costs are yet unquantifiable—will, however, have to be borne.

The cash realised on both of the sales will be used to reduced borrowings, which at the end of last year amounted to £30m.

Dunbee's shares yesterday rose a further 3p to 35p.

Xmas run on Krugers

By Michael Prest
Spectacular seasonal demand for Krugerrands, the one ounce South African gold coins, has totally depleted the South African Chamber of Mines stockpile. Further orders cannot be met until the Government mint opens on January 7.

Krugerrands have benefited from the international demand in bullion. World wide sales of the coins lagged for much of this year behind 1978 until November. Then sales leaped from 103,835 in October to 399,374 the following month. Total sales between January and November this year were 4.2 million compared with 5.4 million last year.

Last night one leading bullion house was quoting about £226½ for a Krugerrand—though the actual purchasing price depends on how many are bought. But at that price the premium over the gold content value is approximately 5.2 per cent.

London bank said yesterday that it had sold many Krugerrands in the last six weeks as in the last six months. But although demand in the United Kingdom has undoubtedly been heavy recently—partly because of Value Added Tax is payable on the coins whereas on bullion it is—most of the international demand has been from Germany. The imposition of VAT on Krugerrands on January 1, 1980, combined with year on year bonuses and dividends has fuelled a boom.

Dixon takeover fails

By Rosemary Unsworth
David Dixon, the Leeds-based woolen cloth manufacturer, has failed in its £2.7m bid for Montfort (Knitting Mills). The board said yesterday that due to the intervention of the privately owned Palma Textiles Group, it would not be extending or increasing its offer for Montfort which has now lapsed.

Earlier this month Dixon's increased its offer from an equivalent 84p a share to 88p but Montfort's board repeated its original rejection of the offer, saying it was "grossly inadequate". When the bid lapsed Dixon held nearly 15 per cent of Montfort. During the first offer period Palma

increased its stake in Montfort, from 11.95 per cent to 14.85 and announced that it would not accept the offer. But the Take-over Panel intervened to force that Palma was not contravening Rule 37 of the Code which says that anyone with a commercial interest in the outcome of an offer must consult the Panel in advance over dealings in the market and show that the action is not prejudicial to shareholders' interests. It concluded that there was no contravention of the code.

Palma, like Montfort, is based in Leicester and manufactures rights and socks.

The news of the failed bid sent Montfort shares down 8p to 76p on the stock market.

Mann Egerton down 50pc

Higher interest charges and a loss making industrial division has lopped some 50 per cent from the pre-tax profits of Mann Egerton, a subsidiary of Inchcape. In the six months to September 30, 1979, the group made £1.4m pre-tax against a previous £2.7m. Loss-making overshoot, Sherlite, which slipped £382,000 into the red in the six months, is to be closed down.

Sutcliffe Speakman falls to a loss
The downturn in demand for brickmaking plant has hit engulphing the half year to September 30, 1979. Profits fell into a pre-tax loss of £136,000 against a £201,000 profits last time. Turnover in the six months was down by about a quarter from £4.32m to £3.01m.

Last summer's engineering dispute helped to worsen the group's general position. The reduction in engineering orders has resulted in redundancies in areas mainly associated with the manufacture of brick plant equipment.

Polly Peck deeper in the red
Clothing manufacturers Polly Peck moved deeper into the red at the half way stage with losses of £229,000 compared with £12,000. For the six months to September 19, 1979 turnover fell marginally from £519,000 to £515,000.

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